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Palestinian Affairs

PLO Spokesman Hopes for USSR Stability

JN2208172891 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1615 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] An official PLO spokesman said that Soviet developments are a purely domestic issue and that the PLO hopes that political stability will be rapidly restored in the Soviet Union. In addition, the spokesman expressed the desire that internal security will be reestablished in the Soviet Union through the efforts of Soviet state institutions and those of the Soviet people, as this would have a substantial effect on international stability and security and would allow for the continuation of the Middle East peace process.

The spokesman asserted that this stand stems from the traditions of our foreign policy and our ties with states and peoples, which are based on mutual respect and noninterference in the domestic affairs of any country.

Fatah Official on Soviet Events, Peace Talks

NC2208154091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1454 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Tunis, 22 Aug (MENA)—Khalid al-Hasan, Fatah Central Committee member and chairman of the Palestine National Council's Foreign Relations Committee, has said that the events in Moscow could trigger a panic that might cause more Soviet Jews to emigrate to Israel.

In a statement to MENA on the events in Moscow and Gorbachev's return to power, the Palestinian official stressed that a return to the cold war between the Soviet Union and the United States would have been more dangerous for the Palestinian cause.

Regarding the question of Palestinian representation at the peace conference, al-Hasan said that a Jordanian-Palestinian joint delegation to the peace conference would provide an umbrella for the Palestinian delegation. He noted that the Palestinian delegation would handle all matters concerning the Palestinian issue, while the Jordanian delegation would handle those related to the Jordanian side once at the conference. The two delegations could then discuss questions of mutual interest, such as the water issue and other regional topics.

WAFA Disavows Statements on Soviet Events

JN2208173191 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1616 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] The political editor of the PALESTINE NEWS AGENCY [WAFA] has said that the Palestinian statements made on Soviet developments are statements that only reflect the personal opinions of their authors and that they do not reflect any official position. He added: Some media organs recently published statements allegedly reflecting the PLO position on recent Soviet developments. Any such statements are viewed as official statements only when they are issued by the PLO Executive Committee and are carried by WAFA. Therefore, we request that all Arab and Western news agencies and media organs view the statement issued by the Executive Committee yesterday as the first official Palestinian statement on the issue.

U.S. Guarantees Sought Over Peace Conference

PM2008135891 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 19 Aug 91 p 1

[Hisham 'Abdallah report: "Unified Palestinian Document on Settlement To Be Drawn Up by Joint Committee From Inside and Outside"]

[Excerpt] London, occupied Jerusalem, Amman—The PLO Executive Committee's special committee is expected to finish its proceedings in London today, Monday, with a view to preparing a Palestinian overview regarding the guarantees the PLO demands from the United States in connection with the Mideast peace conference. Sources have told AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI that the committee's members have been busy since Friday evening formulating this overview in accordance with Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat's directives. These directives focus on the need for guarantees to be given that the aim of the proposed conference will be the implementation of Resolution 242, which means an end to the occupation and Israel's withdrawal from the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem; that the Palestinian people's national rights—first and foremost their right to self-determination—will be recognized; and that Jerusalem, as an issue and in terms of its representation, will not be excluded from any stage of the negotiations.

These guarantees also include the requirements that the PLO decide the matter of Palestinian participation without any foreign interference, and that all settlement activities be stopped immediately in all the territories occupied in 1967, including Jerusalem.

The committee includes Professor Edward Said; Professor Ibrahim Abu Loghud; Faysal al-Husayni; Basil 'Aql, former head of the PLO mission to the United Nations; Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi; Dr. Nasir al-Qudwah, head of Palestinian mission to the United Nations; Dr. Zakariyya al-Agha; and Professor Musa Mazzawi.

The committee's recommendations will be submitted to the PLO Executive Committee for approval. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Second Government-Parties Meeting Begins

LD2208194391 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpts] A second government-parties meeting was held today in the Palais des Nations. All parties which participated in the first meeting are taking part in this meeting with the exception of the Nation's Movement [Harakat al-Ummah]. The Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] did not attend the meeting. The Socialist Forces Front, which boycotted the first meeting, is attending. More details on this meeting and the events of the morning session from our team in the Palais des Nations:

[Unidentified reporter] [passage omitted] The meeting almost stumbled or surpassed what was agreed before within the framework of the results of the first meeting: discussion of a single basic issue, namely, the forthcoming parliamentary elections. The first hours of the meeting were spent in a debate about the agenda and the rules of procedures, and interventions began expressing some reservations on the substance of some articles of these rules. Some parties also protested against the issue of restricting the discussions to one subject—the legislative elections—without the issues connected to this matter, especially the political issues which are closely connected to the issue of elections.

The prime minister intervented during the debate in which he explained that the government is solely responsible for the preparation of the election project, but it is careful to deepen consultation and coordination with the parties through the study of the parties' views and proposals, in order that its election project is agreed upon and gains the confidence of citizens and their representatives. He said in this respect: The matter is not related to transfering part of the government's responsibility to the parties. Then, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali pointed out that the government received proposals from 43 parties, the proposals of 30 of which have been submitted individually, while 13 parties submitted their proposals in the form of two groups: the first included eight parties, while the second included five parties.

The interventions which characterized the debate focused on three articles in the rules of procedures, namely, article three which holds that the conference's object is represented in the discussion of the parties' proposals relating to the preparation for the legislative elections. After some give and take it was agreed to amend this article as follows: The conference's object is represented in discussing the parties' proposals relating to the preparation of the appropriate climate for holding clean and fair legislative elections. Notice that the expressions—appropriate climate, holding, and clean and fair—have been added. This formula has been arrived at after proposals were submitted by Messrs Hocine Ait Ahmed, Youssi, and Cheikh Djaballah.

Article five provides that speakers speak according to registration priority, but it must be taken into consideration the time factor allocated for the intervention as well as its subject. This article was confined to the issue of priority in registration. The time limit issue was added to it.

Another article was the focus of some interventions, namely, article eight which provides for the establishment of a drafting committee. The content of this article raised a wide debate, and some speakers went as far as to reject the establishment of this committee, particularly if it were to have a dual government-parties character. In view of the great time spent debating this article, Mr. Ghozali proposed its deletion, and agreement to delete it was reached by a vote. Lastly, we point out that the FIS was officially absent from this meeting, but we noticed the presence of Mr. Mohamed Karrar, who was excluded from the latest Batna conference.

The absence of this party has affected the morale of some of the participants to the extent that one party leader proposed that a petition be prepared for submission to the president of the Republic calling for the release of Cheikhs Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj, and the lifting of the state of siege.

We also point out that the first session adjourned at around 1250 after listening to the opening speech, the speech by Mr. Ghozali, and a summary of the parties' proposals which was followed by another discussion characterized by protests. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Al-Asad Message to Mubarak on Ties Reported

JN2208181991 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1710 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Mustafa Bakri dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] At noon today in Alexandria, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' discussed the situation in the Middle East following USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev's reassumption of power. In his talks with President Mubarak, al-Shar' discussed the Israeli stand rejecting the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and the impact this will have on the convening of the peace conference in the region.

Al-Shar' delivered a written message to the Egyptian president from President al-Asad concerning the issues that were discussed in the recent Latakia summit between al-Asad and Jordan's King Husayn. According to Egyptian sources, in his message al-Asad emphasized the need to adopt a unified Arab stand before the convening of the regional peace conference. He also affirmed the need to clear the air between Jordan and Egypt, particularly in light of the recent tension in Egyptian-Jordanian relations following the issuance of the Jordanian White Paper on the Gulf crisis.

More on al-Asad's Message

JN2208162691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1415 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo—Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning at Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak concerning the situation in the region, the peace process, and efforts exerted to convene the peace conference.

Syrian Foreign Minister Meets Mubarak, Comments

NC2208130691 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' at the Ra's al-Tin Palace in Alexandria this morning in a meeting also attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

In a statement after the meeting, al-Shar' said that he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from his brother, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, on the situation in the region, the peace process, and the ongoing international efforts to convene the peace conference. Minister al-Shar' added that he and Mubarak also discussed a number of Arab topics and recent developments in the Soviet Union.

The Syrian minister was asked about the formation of a Palestinian delegation to the peace conference to which he responded: We discussed all issues related to the peace process, the requirements of peace, and how to make these efforts successful to achieve the goals to which we Arabs aspire; namely, the implementation of the international resolutions, particularly Resolutions 242 and 338; the return of the occupied Arab territories; and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Regarding the impact of the recent changes in the Soviet Union on the peace process and on the convening of the peace conference, al- Shar' said he believes that the Soviet Union, which is one of the sponsors of the conference, will not be damaged by the recent events it has gone through. He also said that the United States will continue its efforts to convene the peace conference. Al-Shar' added that the Arab parties declared long ago their readiness to take part in the peace conference on clear-cut foundations, which they specified in various ways.

Mubarak Congratulates Gorbachev by Telephone

NC2208132091 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1250 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 22 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak telephoned Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev this afternoon to extend congratulations on the trust the Soviet people demonstrated in him and on his return to his post as USSR president so that he can carry on the march of freedom and progress. President Mubarak also wished Gorbachev and the entire Soviet leadership success in achieving the Soviet people's aspirations so that Gorbachev can play his role in establishing world peace and upholding human rights.

Mubarak Praises Yeltsin, Expresses 'Satisfaction'

NC2208123091 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpts] This morning President Muhammad Husni Mubarak inaugurated a conference hall at Alexandria University. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak expressed his profound satisfaction at the return of Soviet President Gorbachev to power, his safe arrival in Moscow, and the triumph of legitimacy and democracy in the Soviet Union. The president also expressed his appreciation for the positive reaction and the civilized behavior of the Soviet people and for the courage shown by Russian President Boris Yeltsin, who refused to comply with the designs of the conspirators. His stand ultimately led to the coup's failure and the triumph of the Soviet people's will.

President Mubarak then spoke in detail about his meetings with President Gorbachev last spring and the similarities of the problems facing Egypt and the Soviet Union in the wake of the economic reform adopted by Gorbachev. President Mubarak noted that he introduced changes and reforms gradually into the Egyptian system because he always believed that quick and sudden changes have negative effects on a society. Mubarak also said he believes that medication is the key to cure, but the dosage is instrumental in reaching that end.

Al-Sharif Delivers Message to al-Qadhdhafi

NC2108173391 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1554 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif returned to Cairo tonight from the Libyan Jamahiriyah, following a visit of a few hours during which he handed Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi a message from President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

Al-Sharif said that the message was part of the continuous consultation and exchange of views between the two countries' leaderships on bilateral topics as well as issues of common concern on the Arab and international scenes.

The information minister said that President Mubarak's message noted the positive results of opening the borders between the two countries and the need for senior officials in both countries to follow up on this move.

The information minister added that the message also dealt with international developments and their impact on the regional scene.

Al-Sharif said that he will convey Col. al-Qadhdhafi's views on the points mentioned in the message to President Mubarak. He added that al-Qadhdhafi's views are clear and positive, both with regard to bilateral coordination and cooperation in various fields and to international developments and Arab issues.

Israeli Likud Delegation Holds News Conference

TA2308091091 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by "special" correspondent in Cairo Aviva Raabi]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference in Cairo yesterday, to sum up the visit in Egypt by the Likud young guard delegation, delegation chairman Gil Samsonov called on the Syrians to come and talk peace with Israel.

"The Syrian foreign minister is in Cairo right now," Samsonov said. "We are telling him: You have a partner for peace an hour's flight away from here. Talk to us. Talk to our leaders here, in Tel Aviv, in Jerusalem, or in Damascus."

Delegation member David Mena' called on the Syrians to make a gesture of goodwill and allow the remains of the spy Eli Kohen to be brought to Israel.

The news conference was attended by Egyptian and foreign reporters, and it was videotaped by Egyptian televisions. It was not attended by representatives of the important daily AL-AKHBAR and the weekly UKTUBAR, although they were invited.

The issue of Jerusalem was raised by the Egyptian correspondent of MENA, who was wearing a gold necklace in the shape of greater Palestine. She asked why East Jerusalem Arabs should not be incorporated in the peace process.

"Jerusalem will remain Israel's capital forever because it is the holiest city for the Jews," Mena' replied. "That is why we cannot allow the participation of East Jerusalem Arabs in the negotiations."

Kuwaiti Cabinet Minister Leaves Cairo

NC2108140991 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Aug (MENA)—Duri al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, left Cairo today following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

The Kuwaiti minister delivered a message from Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah dealing with the efforts to implement the UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis when he was received by the president after arriving in Cairo yesterday.

The Kuwaiti minister also met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid and Cabinet Affairs Minister 'Atif 'Ubayd who saw him off at the airport. [passage omitted]

Kuwaiti Information Minister, Delegation Arrive

NC2208150891 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Kuwaiti Information Minister Badr Jasim al-Ya'qub arrived in Cairo today leading a delegation that will spend several days in Egypt. The Kuwaiti minister will hold talks with his Egyptian counterpart, Safwat al-Sharif, on ways to consolidate bilateral cooperation in the information field. Minister al-Sharif welcomed the Kuwaiti minister at the airport. [passage omitted]

Libya

Iran's Sheykholeslam Continues Visit

Meets Liaison Secretary

LD2208203991 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Hannibal [August] (JANA, Arab Maghreb Union Pool)—The secretary of the People's Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation has met this morning in Tripoli Mr. Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, the deputy foreign minister of Iran and his accompanying delegation.

The two sides took stock of the existing bilateral relations between the two countries and explored ways for promoting them in all spheres.

They also discussed the developments of the international situation and matters of common interest. The Iranian ambassador in Great Jamahiriyah also attended this meeting.

Meets Jallud, Discusses Ties

LD2208204391 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1748 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Aug (JANA)—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and the Iranian deputy foreign minister, brother Hoseyn Sheykholeslam, discussed the means of consolidating and bolstering the existing relations between the Great Jamahiriyah and Iran. They also reviewed new developments in the international arena and the coordination of stances vis-a-vis issues of mutual concern. The meeting, which was held this morning in Tripoli, was attended by the director of the Middle East and North Africa Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, brother Mohammad Shahabi; the ambassador of Iran to the Great Jamahiriyah; and the brother secretary of the Libyan Arab Fraternity Bureau [embassy] in Tehran.

Sudan

Paper Says Coup Aborted; Participants Arrested

LD2208111391 London KUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] London, 22 Aug—Sudanese authorities last Tuesday arrested a number of politicians and military

personnel after foiling a coup plan which failed, reports AL-HAYAT newspaper quoting informed Sudanese sources.

The paper quoted these sources, which it did not name, as saying that they believe the coup attempt was being hatched in the interest of the proscribed Ummah Party of Sadiq al-Mahid. The sources did not speak of his arrest or the arrest of any of his aides.

Those detained, according to the paper, included Retired Major General Muhammad 'Abdallah Khalifah, Brigadier General Muhammad al- Rih al-Fakki, Colonel Yahya Jamal, Colonel al-Fadil Salih, Colonel Sha' al-Din Muhammad and Muhammad 'Abdallah 'Abd al-Rahman.

The paper said that no government statement has been issued until last night about the coup attempt.

Opposition Denies Coup Plot

EA2208215091 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 22 Aug 91

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] Reports from Sudanese opposition sources in Cairo claim there have been some upheavals in Khartoum. The military government is apparently talking of a coup plot, and there has been a wave of arrests. Eba Saleh talked to Mubarak al-Fadel al-Mahdi, a close relative of the former prime minister, Sadiq al-Mahdi, and London spokesman of the opposition Umma Party. She asked him what his information was of the events in Khartoum.

[Begin recording] [Al-Mahdi] Well, a number of officers had been arrested. Nine officers who are in service and about (?three, four) who are out of service. As a matter of fact, there has not been any coup, but these officers were arrested on duty.

[Saleh] Now, can you tell me something about the circumstances in which they were arrested?

[Al-Mahdi] Well, the Armored Brigade Training School—they had their normal routine exercises in the desert outside Omdurman in a place called Mahryat. And this colonel, (Khalid), has been in charge. He is the deputy commander of the school. And the exercises were supposed to last until Wednesday [21 August]. But suddenly, Tuesday morning, they had been arrested. And also another group belonging to the paratrooper unit, which had also exercises outside of the capital, had been arrested at the same time, before their exercises had completed. And the scenario or the theory that the government had leaked or the investigations have been taking is that this group was supposed to take over Khartoum as their exercises finish. [sentence as heard] They were supposed to coordinate together, the Armored Brigade unit and the paratrooper unit, and to converge on Khartoum. But nothing of this has happened. They were arrested on duty while on a routine exercise.

[Saleh] Where do you get your information?

[Al-Mahdi] I get my information from Khartoum, from underground party members in Khartoum and from our sources in the armed forces.

[Saleh] Mr. Mahdi, how do we know that they were not planning a coup?

[Al-Mahdi] Well, because they were on duty performing their exercises. They have not really staged anything abnormal. It is the planning of the National Islamic Front [NIF], which is controlling the government in Khartoum, to replace the present Army with an army of political allegiance to the NIF, from their cadres and from their personnel. So, they are replacing them. They have been dismissing a number of officers. Since they have taken over now, 2,000 officers have been dismissed.

[Saleh] Well, I understand that the military is not very happy with the NIF government. Are not these allegations on the part of the Umma Party an attempt to deepen the divisions between the military and the government?

[Al-Mahdi] Well, actually, we are only here as a political force working within the National Democratic Alliance to uncover the plots of the present regime. We are very keen that the Army is a national institution, to preserve its status as a national institution and to perform its duties away from being politicized or being transformed into a party militia, which is happening now. So we have been very consistently campaigning against this, and issuing all information that we get hold of about all the designs and the plots of the NIF in its move to transform the Army into a militia. [end recording]

General al-Bashir Returns From Libya

EA2208151091 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the council of ministers, arrived on the soil of the homeland this evening at the end of the period of treatment and his visit to the sisterly Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah. He was received at the airport by Major General Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the RCC and the ministerial council, RCC and ministerial council members, Armed Forces commanders, directors of [word indistinct] at the general command, and commanders of the various units. His excellency 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir made the following statement to the news media.

[Begin recording] In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful. First, we would like to express condolences to the Sudanese people following the death of Brother Brigadier Pio Yukwan, RCC member. I was extremely saddened by his death. This country was in need of his efforts. You certainly observed the tremendous efforts he had been making lately for peace. We express our condolences to this nation, his family, and people and [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Our visit to Libya came after a noble invitation from dear Brother Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to spend some time there on vacation after our period of treatment in London. We held a number of intimate meetings with the brother colonel during which we discussed the affairs of the two countries, the integration between the two countries, and pushing the wheel of integration forward.

I noticed the brother colonel's enthusiasm to push the integration forward and [words indistinct] of the integration and directing them towards a complete and comprehensive unity, God willing. He also attaches a lot of concern to the course of events in Sudan, the development process in Sudan, and the security process in Sudan and, thank God, we [words indistinct] on the expected good year for agriculture, how he missed Sudan, and how he was satisfied with the way those he left behind led the country. [end recording]

Western Sahara

'Unacceptable' Speech by King Hassan Dismissed

LD2208192491 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] In a statement published today by the Saharan Information Ministry, the Sahraoui [Saharan] government regards the speech by Moroccan King Hassan II asking for a postponement of the referendum as being unacceptable and constituting an insult to the UN Security Council, which adopted this resolution. The statement went on to say that the speech by the Moroccan king is a means of rejecting the UN peace plans, especially since Morocco refused to receive the UN commission responsible for the referendum in the Western Sahara and the identity determination committee. Moreover, Morocco has not yet replied to the letter from the UN secretary general relating to the review of the Spanish census in the Western Sahara in 1974.

The ambassador for the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic in Algiers [Ibrahim Hakim] explained the Saharan attitude toward the Moroccan king's speech:

[Begin Hakim recording] This speech has in fact confirmed what Morocco has done lately: destruction, efforts to destroy what we achieved between us and it on the one hand and between the UN secretary general and the two sides on the road to peace. [as heard]

All have expected that when Morocco committed and registered its committment to the peace plan, that Morocco, I say, would begin to carry out this plan. Now, we see that this situation is a challenge to Security Council resolutions and an escape forward from the logic of reasonableness and problem solving by peaceful means to the logic of tension and war.

Undoubtedly, the consequences of this attitude are very serious, not only for this plan and the level of this plan, but also for the region which has been living for almost 16 years in the shadow of a war imposed by Morocco on the Sahara and which always threatens the stability and security in this region. We ask all, especially the international community, and everybody concerned about this tense future which Morocco has opted for, to exert every effort and employ all means at their disposal to [word indistinct] Morocco and force it to return to wisdom and reasonableness. [end recording]

The Sahraoui Ministry of Information—in another statement issued a short time ago—said that Morocco escalated the situation anew as the Moroccan Armed Forces left their defensive positions and moved toward Mijic and Tifariti in the liberated areas to start the building of the seventh wall.

The statement said that this Moroccan move is being regarded as a blow to the process of ending a colonial war and exposes the region to all the dangers.

Bahrain

Foreign Ministry Views Gorbachev's Reinstatement

JN2208145391 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1420 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Manama, 22 Aug (WAKH)—The State of Bahrain welcomed the reinstatement of Soviet legitimacy represented by President Mikhail Gorbachev.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry stated that the Bahraini Government closely followed recent developments in the Soviet Union in light of the ties of friendship binding the State of Bahrain and the USSR. It welcomes the reinstatement of legitimacy represented by President Mikhail Gorbachev and hopes that this positive development will help the Soviet Union occupy its important position and play its positive role in the international arena, including the causes of peace in the world, the source added.

Iranian Petroleum Minister Continues Visit

Amir Receives Message

JN2208191891 Manama WAKH in English 1540 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—H.H. [His Highness] the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on issues concerning the region and prospects of strengthening bilateral relations.

The message was conveyed by Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i during his meeting with H.H the amir here today. Aqazadeh-Kho'i arrived in Manama earlier this morning.

Prime Minister on Cooperation

JN2208192391 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah received this morning Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and his accompanying delegation.

The meeting discussed means of boosting cooperation between Bahrain and the Islamic Republic of Iran and the situation in the region.

Present were the Minister of Transportation Ibrahim Humaydan, the Director General of the Premier's Office Muhammad al-Mutawwa', the Chairman of the Bahrain National Gas Company Shaykh Hamad Bin-Ibrahim Al Khalifah, the Iranian Ambassador to Bahrain Javad Torkabadi, the Assistant Development and Industry Under Secretary for Industrial Affairs 'Abdallah al-Thawadi, the General Manager of the Bahrain National Oil Company Muhammad Salih, and other officials.

Meets Transportation Minister

JN2208192091 Manama WAKH in English 1640 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—Bahraini Minister of Transportation Mr. Ibrahim Muhammad Hasan Humaydan met here today with Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, currently visiting Bahrain.

Following the meeting, the Bahraini minister said that the meeting covered cooperation between the two countries in the economic, oil and environment fields. They also agreed on establishing a joint committee to study topics that would increase bilateral cooperation in the economic and trade fields.

They also agreed on Iran's participation in the petroleum exhibition [as received] due to be held in Bahrain in November, and studied the issue of regional cooperation in the field of environmental protection. [passage omitted]

Holds More Talks, Ends Visit

JN2308100891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Manama, 23 Aug (WAKH)—Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i left Manama this morning after a visit to Bahrain during which he conveyed a message to His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The Iranian minister also held talks on economic and oil cooperation.

Yusuf Ahmad al-Shirawi, Bahraini minister of development and industry and minister of state for Council of Ministers affairs, met with the Iranian oil minister this morning. The meeting, which was attended by Transportation Minister Muhammad Hasan Humaydan, was a continuation of the meeting that was held yesterday morning between the Iranian minister and the transportation minister. A number of issues pertaining to the enhancement of industrial cooperation were discussed.

Kuwait

Amir Cables Congratulations to Gorbachev, Yeltsin

LD2208105391 London KUNA in Arabic 1027 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 22 Aug (KUNA)—The amir of Kuwait sent a cable of congratulations to Soviet President Gorbachev and Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic President Boris Yeltsin, in which he expresses his greetings and wishes for their success in taking control of recent events in the USSR. He also expressed the solidarity of the Kuwaiti people and government with the legitimate Soviet leadership and their appreciation of the Soviet just stand on the side of Kuwait and legitimacy during the treacherous Iraqi invasion.

National Council Seeks Continued Embargo of Iraq

LD2208221691 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1244 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Kuwait, 22 August—The Kuwaiti National Council appealed to all Arab and international parliaments to stress to Iraq the need to respect international legitimacy, abide by UN Security Council resolutions, and speed the release of the POW's it arbitrarily seized. It also asked them not to heed Iraq's call for lifting the economic embargo imposed on it.

In a statement, a copy of which was received by KUNA, the National Council affirmed that the Iraqi regime is determainedly persisting with its excessiveness even at a time when it is suffering from the weight of the international blockade.

The statement added that the Iraqi regime could free itself from the effects of this blockade by responding to the UN Security Council resolutions to which it will have to submit sooner or later.

The National Council said that on the orders of the regime, the so-called Iraqi National Assembly asked the Arab and international parliaments to support it in lifting the economic embargo despite the fact that the Iraqi regime still continues to refuse to abide by its commitments to the international community represented by the UN Security Council.

The National Council pointed out that the lifting of the economic embargo, which Iraq has arrogantly been seeking, is conditional on Iraq's implementation of all the UN Security Council resolutions, including the resolutions on the return of the POW's and detainees. Iraq has been procrastinating in implementing this condition by resorting to feeble and false pretexts.

In view of this, the National Council appealed to all world parliaments which uphold justice and right not to heed Iraq's call or support it until it submits to the will of the international community as manifested in the UN Security Council resolution in general, and Resolution 686/1990 in particular on the need for the release of all POW's and detainees.

The council recalled the treachery the Iraqi regime committed against the State of Kuwait by invading it, occupying its territory, and violating its sanctity, as was seen by the whole world which rose to oppose this aggression until Kuwait was liberated and legitimacy was restorted to it, thanks to God and the suport of the fraternal and friendly countries which uphold human values and principles and which believe in right, justice, and peace.

The statement added that one of the methods of political sageness which the international community initiated to avoid the eruption of a grinding military conflict was the attempt to convince the Iraqi regime to peacefully withdraw from Kuwait without any further bloodshed, by means of understanding on one occasion and by resorting to an economic embargo on another when all the good offices that were exerted failed to make Iraq uphold the right. The UN Security Council affirmed the need for continuation of this embargo until reason and wisdom prevail over Iraq's arrogance and until Iraq implements all the UN Security Council resolutions and fully complies with them, the statement said.

Qatar

Iranian Oil Minister Brings Message for Amir

LD2208063391 Tehran IRNA in English 1728 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug. 21, IRNA—Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i met with the crown prince of Qatar Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani in Doha Wednesday and handed him a message from President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani for the emir of Qatar Shaykh Khalifah Bin Hamad-Al Thani.

The message deals with the current issues in the region and explains the Islamic Republic of Iran's stance vis-a-vis the issue of Palestine.

The oil minister also submitted to the crown prince who is also defence minister a message from First Vice-President Hasan Habibi to visit Iran.

Also discussed in the meeting were mutual issues, including oil and gas cooperation as well as the issue of Palestine.

Aqazadeh-Kho'i is to visit Bahrain Thursday in the last leg of his regional tour which has already taken him to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin

LD2208164991 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1355 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Jeddah, 22 Aug (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, sent a congratulatory cable to His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev. Here is the text:

His Excellency President Mikhail Gorbachev, chairman of the Supreme Soviet [as received] of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow:

I take pleasure in sending to you, in the name of the people and government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and in my own name, profound congratulations and best wishes on occasion of the confidence given to you by the Soviet people to continue to lead them and realize their aims in security, peace, and prosperity. On this occasion it pleases me also to stress the positive role you play in the service of your country and in participating in maintaining world peace and international security and in looking forward to a world in which concord, confidence, and assurance prevail. Please accept my greetings and best wishes to your excellency and the continuation of security and stability for the Soviet people.

[Signed] Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, king of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques

The king also sent a similar cable to his excellency the president of the Russian Federal Republic. Here is the text:

His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin, president of the Russian Federal Republic: On the occasion of the confidence given by the Soviet people to their legitimate leadership and the return of President Mikhail Gorbachev to assume his responsibilities, it pleases me to laud the brave role you played for the sake of your country in preserving its legitimate leadership and what the people look for—security, stability, and prosperity. Please accept our congratulations to you all in overcoming what happened. We wish the Soviet people continuation of security and stability and wish you success. Please accept my greetings.

[Signed] Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the king of Saudi Arabia and the custodian of the two holy mosques

United Arab Emirates

President Congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin

JN2208150091 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1350 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 22 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, sent a congratulatory cable to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of his success in containing the latest events and his return to power in the Soviet Union.

His highness also sent a cable of congratulations to Russian President Boris Yeltsin, whose firm and principled stand played a major role in controlling events and bringing things back to normal.

His Highness Shaykh Maktum Bin-Rashid al-Maktum, vice president and prime minister, also sent similar cables of congratulations to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and Mr. Boris Yeltsin.

Shaykh Zayid Receives Gorbachev Message

JN2208150891 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1355 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Al-'Ayn, 22 Aug (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], received a written message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, expressing deep thanks for the position taken by his highness during the recent events in the Soviet Union.

WAM said that the Soviet president affirmed in his message that the condition of his health is good, that he has resumed his constitutional duties, and that he will make further efforts to develop the ties of friendship and cooperation existing between the two countries.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan received the message when he met with Soviet Ambassador Konstantin Kharchev this afternoon.

As for His Highness Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, he expressed the deep feelings of relief which prevailed in the UAE after the return of legitimate Soviet authority to perform its constitutional responsibilities. He said that he relayed, through the Soviet ambassador, the congratulations of the UAE—president, government, and people—to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev upon his reinstatement at the helm of power in the Soviet Union.

Shaykh Hamdan went on to say that the UAE is fully certain that the Soviet Union will continue its march and will realize the progress, reform, and prosperity in the economic, political, and social spheres, aspired for by its leaders and people. He asserted that the positive developments, witnessed in the wake of the cruel ordeal recently experienced by the Soviet Union, will undoubtedly contribute toward enhancing the Soviet Union's role as a superpower in consecrating the pillars of the new world order, based on cooperation among countries and peoples, and also on truth, justice, and international legitimacy.

Newspapers Welcome Gorbachev's Return to Power

JN2208175591 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpts] Manama, Aug 22 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] newspapers today hailed the return of Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to power after the failed coup by the Soviet hardliners and said that no weapon on earth can overcome the will of the people.

'AL-WAHDAH' newspaper of Abu Dhabi said "the Soviet peoples will and their backing to legitimacy and democracy precipitated the failure of the adventurous military coup which was about to undermine all modern achievements."

"Legitimacy has conquered, and the demagogy of the communist hardliners was defeated," it said.

The Dubayy-based 'AL-BAYAN' daily said the recent conflict in the Soviet Union was "a tussle between the military hardliners and the freedom supported by the unarmed people."

"It is a confrontation between the new world order of peace and human rights respect and the old order of force, aggression and suppression of freedom."

The GULF NEWS also published in Dubayy said "although Gorbachev is back as if in the twinkle of an eye, the abortive coup has changed a lot of things overnight for the Soviet Union and for the rest of the world too."

It added that "a lot of psychological debris has been cleared away—for example, the fears in the West and elsewhere that a powerful hardline caucus was waiting to

strike Gorbachev down and would never let go of power again have vanished into thin air."

"These are glory days for the Soviet people and they will be right to celebrate, before settling down to the new tasks ahead," the paper concluded. [passage omitted]

On the Soviet crisis the Bahraini English-language 'GULF DAILY NEWS' newspaper said in its editorial today that "last night's collapse of the Soviet coup against Mikhail Gorbachev was a pathetically predicatable finale to an unconstitutional attempt doomed from day one."

It added, in part: "The entire eight-man committee of plotters who crept away by plane to Bishkek [place name as received] had totally misjudged public reaction. For short of killing tens of thousands of Russians and other outraged Soviet people, there was no way they would have succeeded in clamping the lid on the democratic ferment."

"Strength of support for Boris Yeltsin and a deep rooted yearning for real freedom despite initial domestic hardships must have shocked the surprisingly timid junta."

"This was basically a coup orchestrated by clumsy right-wing military and KGB officers with no training in the niceties of politics. They did not possess unity or authority to make the emergency work, which proved fatal against such a courageous and formidable operator like Yeltsin."

"His Russian Republic is likely now to wield the real power with Gorbachev possibly returning as the central figurehead prior to pattern of autonomy and independence taking shape in the republics and cities."

Gorbachev's clout is likely to be limited to various coordinating functions, foreign policy and military matters.

The rest of the world, which feared a dramatic return to cold war tensions, can breathe a sigh of relief. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Salih Receives Gorbachev's Message, Views Ties

JN2208143091 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, and Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, deputy chairman of the Presidential Council, today received Soviet Ambassador Igor Ivashchenko. The ambassador handed the chairman a message from USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning the recent developments in the Soviet Union. The message also contains President Gorbachev's assertion that the Soviet Union will continue its course of democracy, reconstruction, respect for human rights, and abidance by all agreements and treaties signed between the Soviet Union and states of the world. The message also asserts the Soviet Union's eagerness to promote the relations of friendship and cooperation with all people of the world on the basis of mutual respect, common interests, and maintaining security and peace in the world.

The brother president asked the ambassador to convey the Yemeni leadership's greetings and congratulations to President Gorbachev for his safe return and the Soviet people's trust, as manifested in his official reinstatement as president of the USSR, something which constitutes a success for legitimacy and democracy in the Soviet Union. He expressed our country's wishes that the Soviet Union continue with further stability, security, and peace to preserve its unity and enhance its role to effectively contribute toward maintaining peace and safeguarding world security and cooperation among peoples. He stressed the distinguished and deep-rooted traditional relations of cooperation and friendship between our country and the Soviet Union, and our country's constant eagerness to promote those relations in a manner that serves the two friendly countries' mutual interests and enhances their role in serving world peace.

Saddam Husayn Receives Message From Gorbachev

JN2208174091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1720 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn received a message from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

INA learned that, in his message, Soviet President Gorbachev stressed his country's determination to enforce constitutional principles; to restore order and the rule of law; to respect human rights; to abide by all treaties, obligations, and agreements; and to organize the economic situation in a sound manner.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev reassured President Saddam Husayn about his health, affirming to his excellency that the situation in the Soviet Union will return to normal.

Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn thanked the Soviet charge d'affaires in Baghdad, who handed him the message. He wished the friendly Soviet people welfare, stability, and progress, and that the existing relations between the two friendly countries would further intprove.

Saddam Endorses Demobilization of Some Reservists

JN2208190091 Baghdad AL-QADISIYAH in Arabic 20 Aug 91 pp 1, 7

[By 'Ala' Laftah Musa]

[Excerpt] AL-QADISIYAH learned that Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, endorsed the demobilization of those soldiers born in 1965.

AL-QADISIYAH learned that the demobilization of conscripts born in 1965 will begin on 24 August 1991, with the exception of physicians and pharmacists, pending additional instructions pertaining to those two groups.

AL-QADISIYAH also learned that reserve physicians and pharmacists are to be released 24 August.

AL-QADISIYAH obtained the text of the instructions issued by the Conscription Directorate regarding the demobilization of those born in 1965.

The instructions state that the demobilization will cover the following:

First: reservists born in 1965, regardless of whether they were drafted before or after 2 August 1991, and irrespective of their reserve service up to 1 April 1991, pending their release on 24 August 1991.

Second: those born in 1965 who are on compulsory service and who switched to the reserves after 1 April 1991. They will be required to serve from the date of switching services until 23 August 1991.

Third: conscripts born in 1964 who will switch to reserve status on or after 24 August 1991, are to be demobilized immediately, having served from 1 April 1991 to 23 August 1991. These conscripts will not be required to serve this period.

The instructions provide for their demobilization, regardless of the length of their reserve service as applicable to the demobilization of those born between 1953 and 1960 and up to 1 April 1991 only.

After 1 April and pending their demobilization on 24 August 1991, they will be subject to all legal measures and instructions formerly in force. They must fulfill the requirement of having served a total of four months and 23 days from 1 April 1991 to the date of their demobilization. [passage omitted]

Saddam Visits Oil Ministry, Tours Baghdad

JN2208143991 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1225 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 22 Aug (INA)—President Saddam Husayn visited the Oil Ministry and acquainted himself with the ministry's efforts to reconstruct what was destroyed by the aggressors of the spiteful 30-state alliance.

His excellency ordered that innovative workers be rewarded, that the needs of citizens be met, and that gas be provided for economic activity as soon as possible.

His excellency also toured the city of Baghdad, where he visited a number of citizens in one of its districts. Citizens received him with songs and chants, wishing him long life and condemning the aggressors' economic blockade.

Government Dispatches Reinforcements to Karkuk

LD2208100891 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1445 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] According to Revolutionary Iraq Radio, Baghdad has strengthened its military forces around Karkuk and has dispatched an additional nine divisions and one brigade to the southern parts of that country to raid Shiite residential areas there.

According to incoming dispatches from northern Iraq, Turkey has warned Iraqi Kurds not to deport that country's opposition guerrillas from northern Iraq. In another development, the Turkish prime minister said that if the northern parts of Iraq are not purged, Turkey will intervene and the Turkish Air Force will carry out reconnaissance flights over northern Iraq as part of the framework of the agreements made with the allied forces.

Rebels Report Capture of Officers, Soldiers

NC2208150791 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1418 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Our heroic mujahidin continue to inflict their customary painful blows on Saddam's forces and the pillars of the tattered regime. In an ambush near the Subbah oil field on the main road between Basra and al-Nasiriyah, a group of Martyr al-Sadr's forces of the victorious popular forces captured Captain Nasir al-Difa' and 17 soldiers of the 6th Armored Division's 25th Brigade and Lieutenant 'Abd-al-Sadah of the 24th Brigade's 3d Regiment.

The group and its prisoners returned safely to base with the help and power of God.

Ramadan Says French Government 'Lost Credibility'

JN2208152491 Baghdad INA in English 1300 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 22, INA—Mr. Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and vice-president, has affirmed that the aggressive stance pursued by the French Government identical to the American policy will affect future of the Arab-French relations.

Receiving today French thinker Gilles Monet secretary general of the French-Iraqi Friendship Society, Mr. Ramadan said that the French Government had lost credibility in its independent decision and slogans of democracy and human rights.

On his part the French figure said that continuity of the economic sanctions on Iraq represented an aggression on the humanity and a violation of the international charters and laws.

AL-QADISIYAH on International 'Imbalance'

JN2308100091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0808 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Aug (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH says that one of the important facts that the American West and all the world must realize is that Iraqi's political decision is independent, reflects free will, and embodies the interests of Iraq and the Arab nation.

In its editorial today, the paper says that, apart from its independence, the Iraqi political decision is courageous: It dots the i's, avoids narrow and short-term interests, and declares its position on international issues loudly and openly. The paper explains that this is one of the reasons behind the sinful U.S. aggression against Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Because its political and national decision is independent, and because its analytical view of the current imbalance of international powers in favor of the U.S. colonialist hegemony is sound, Iraq has been warning and cautioning against disturbances in the balance of international power since perestroyka was applied in the Soviet Union.

The paper says that the unjust aggression against Iraq, the singling out of the Iraqi people by more than 30 states revolving in the American orbit, the use of destructive force against the country, and the aggression's repercussions on the international situation have proven the validity of Iraq's policy and analyses, despite the damage it sustained due to its strong and firm adherence to its independent political will and its rejection of U.S. hegemony over the world.

The paper adds: A glance at the consequences of the aggression against Iraq and its people, as reflected in the intensification of U.S. domination over this vital part of the world and in Washington's threat to use the weapon of the new world order to extort and terrorize the nations of the world, will clearly show that the international silence that accompanied the U.S. aggression was a sin perpetrated against world peace and security, not only a crime against Iraq and its people.

Developments and events have proved, the paper adds, that any pattern of world peace and security not based on the balance of power will not bring about peace and security. On the contrary, it will subject the world and its peoples to the law of the jungle and the survival of the fittest. This is exactly what is happening now with the absence of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the United States as the sole world superpower.

AL-QADISIYAH concludes: Having said that, peoples' will and free decisionmaking remain the decisive line separating them from the state of independence and subservience to foreigners. With its people, and under the leadership of symbolic knight Saddam Husayn, Iraq was and still is embodying this will and this independent decision. It will not budge on these stands no matter how big the conspiracies of the Americans and their followers.

Foreign Currency Smuggling 'Gang' Apprehended

JN2208152891 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 21 Aug 91 p 8

[By Qasim al-Maliki and Zamil Ghannam]

[Excerpts] Over the past two days, anticrime agencies apprehended a dangerous gang which was engaged in smuggling local and foreign currencies and promoting them on the black market.

Anticrime Department Director Colonel Hashim Muhammad Faraj told AL-JUMHURIYAH that anticrime personnel seized 34.5 million Iranian rials, 20,000 Iraqi dinars, and 5,000 $20 travel checks. [passage omitted]

He appealed to citizens to cooperate with internal security forces and to inform them of any suspicious conduct to rid society of these elements who tamper with security and attempt to undermine the society's structure and sabotage the Iraqi economy.

Finance Minister on Stock Market Controls

JN2108194091 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1830 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Baghdad, 21 Aug (INA)—Finance Minister Majid 'Abd-al-Ja'far affirmed that Baghdad's stock market will contribute effectively toward regulating the sale and purchase of stock among citizens smoothly and in an orderly manner in accordance with specific controls.

In an interview broadcast over Iraqi television tonight, the minister added that this market will enable citizens to acquaint themselves with the sale and purchase of the stocks of companies, individuals, and private as well as public sector companies, not to mention the stocks of shareholding companies and government bonds which are to be issued from time to time. He indicated that all economic sectors, be they private, mixed, or socialist sectors, will be allowed to operate in the market to conduct transactions to sell and buy stocks.

On the importance of the market with regard to investment, the minister noted that the market will provide solid and broad grounds for mobilizing resources and savings, and will thus help implement economic projects that could yield

huge economic returns at the national economy level. He also stated that the market will contribute toward confronting inflation through the opportunities it will create for absorbing the huge cash liquidity available and the move from consumption to investment.

Regarding the role of brokers in the market, the finance minister asserted that the brokers who will be appointed in accordance with the stock market controls and law will be people who have substantial experience in stock exchange as well as expertise which should qualify them to conduct successful activities in the stock market. He added that any broker who fails to heed the market's work controls will be replaced.

On stock prices, the minister said that supply and demand of shares in the market will determine prices and a host of other economic calculations concerning buyers and sellers.

Staples, Special Commodities Exempted From Fees

JN2208200591 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 91

["Decision No. 269" issued by the Revolution Command Council in Baghdad on 8 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
Decision No. 269:
Date of decision: 18 Muharram 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 8 August 1991.

Decision: In accordance with Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] decided the following:

1. RCC decision No. 38 of 9 February 1991 shall be abrogated. Amended Customs Law No. 13 of 1984, amended Customs Tariff Law No. 77 of 1955, and importation restrictions shall be revalidated. Provisions of Paragraphs 2 and 3 of this decision shall be observed.

2. Imported basic food supplies, requirements of industrial and agricultural production, car production, and construction shall be exempted from customs fees, the national defense tax, or any other fees.

3. The Council of Ministers shall be empowered with issuing detailed lists of commodities covered by the provisions of Paragraph 2 of this decision, and with adding or deleting any commodity.

4. This decision shall be published in the Official Gazette. Competent ministers shall implement it.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC.

Reasons for issuing the decision: To benefit from the privileges and facilities listed in Decision No. 38 of 9 February 1991; to secure a continued flow of supplies and commodities and to meet consumers' needs; to confine those privileges and facilities to necessary and basic materials, to exclude other commodities, and to subject them to the valid laws and import restrictions; and to revalidate the Customs Law and Customs Tariff Law and their amendments in a manner that enables the customs authorities to perform their duties and responsibilities as stated by the two mentioned laws and which were rendered ineffective by the absolute formula in which Decision No. 38 of 9 February 1991 was worded.

Volunteers To Receive Real Estate Bank Loans

JN2208194091 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio First Program Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 91

["Decision Number 281" issued by the Revolution Command Council in Baghdad on 19 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.
The Revolution Command Council [RCC]:
Resolution Number 281 issued on 9 Safar 1412 hejira corresponding to 19 August 1991.

Proceeding from the laws of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC decided the following:

1. The loans of the Real Estate Bank given to volunteers in the Army, whether to commissioned or noncommissioned officers, will be disbursed, each according to his dues and in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations.

2. The responsible ministers and the concerned sides will be responsible for implementing the regulations of this decision.

[signed] Saddam Husayn, [words indistinct].

Official Hands IAPC Secretary General Memo

JN2108193491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Khartoum, 21 Aug (INA)—Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Islamic Arab Popular Conference [IAPC], met here today with Mr. Qasim Hammudi, head of the Arab Department at the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and member of the IAPC secretariat.

Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi told the INA correspondent in Khartoum today that he discussed with Dr. Hasan al-Turabi the repercussions of the economic siege on the Iraqi people and the developments in Arab and international affairs.

He added that during the meeting he handed Dr. al-Turabi a memorandum to be presented to the IAPC secretariat meeting which will be held tomorrow on the effects of the American-Atlantic aggression on Iraq, and a working paper containing an extensive campaign for lifting the unjust economic siege on Iraq, affirming its national unity, rejecting intervention in its internal affairs, and condemning the media and political campaign the United States and its allies are waging against the Iraqi people.

Mr. Sa'd Qasim Hammudi arrived here today to take part in the IAPC secretariat meetings to start its meetings tomorrow and continuing for three days.

Shamir: USSR Relations Necessary for Progress

TA2308085991 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 23 Aug 91 p 4

[Report by political correspondent Shim'on Schiffer and New York-based correspondent Tzadoq Yehezqeli on "exclusive" interview with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by YEDI'OT AHARONOT; place and date not given]]

[Excerpt] In an exclusive interview with YEDI'OT AHARONOT, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said: "President Gorbachev's return to power and to his position in the USSR is good news for international peace, democracy, and the opportunity to attain peace in the Middle East."

Shamir said that the three days of the USSR revolution and all the events in that country will be widely studied by historians and many others over a long period of time.

Asked whether Gorbachev's return would lead to an improvement in relations between Israel and the USSR and an upgrade of diplomatic relations between the two countries, Shamir replied: "I very much hope so. No progress in peace negotiations in our region will be possible unless full diplomatic ties between Israel and the USSR are established. I expect that, now that Gorbachev has returned to his post, the USSR will keep its promise and establish full diplomatic relations with Israel."

Shamir said that he believes the convening of the regional peace conference may be delayed from its scheduled date in October. "It is hard to tell whether the original timetable for the conference will be kept. We must wait and see what happens with all the parties involved with the process. So far, we were the only ones who did not have difficulties. The Arabs still have some unsolved problems."

"The same holds true for the USSR. We must wait until they complete some of the arrangements and, as I said before, among other things, reestablish full diplomatic ties with us. As I said earlier, I do not attribute great importance to the October date. The important thing is the willingness of all parties to move toward mutual reconciliation."

Shamir also referred to the statements Palestinian figures made after the USSR coup. "The remarks made by the heads of the PLO and other Arab sources," he said, "did not surprise me. Those people believed the changes meant a chance that conditions would return to those that existed when the Soviet Union was on the Arab side. Unfortunately, to this day we can hear Arab statements that do not serve the cause of peace."

[Unidentified reporter] What lesson did you learn from the recent events in the USSR?

[Shamir] "Many lessons could be learned from the events that accompanied the revolution and followed it. In his news conference, Gorbachev also said that the lessons of what happened still need to be studied. My lesson primarily indicates the power of democracy and the greatness of the Russian people."

Our correspondent in Cairo Smadar Peri adds: Shamir's statement on the postponement of the peace conference has caused anger in Egypt and Syria. [passage omitted]

Arens Assesses Soviet Situation, Hostage Issue

TA2208181891 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says he expects the Soviet Union to follow through with its declared policy of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and taking part in the peace process. Defense Minister Arens made the statement in an interview with reporter Alan Ben-'Ami at an Air Force base, where he welcomed the arrival today of two new F-16 combat planes, the first of 60 expected from the United States this year.

[Begin recording] [Arens] We have had no direct contact and I do not think we should have expected direct contact on this day, which is [not only] a holiday for the Soviet Union but a holiday for all free and democratic people throughout the world. I think it may take them a few days to set their house in order and get things moving again, but I expect that the Government of the Soviet Union will follow its declared policy of establishing diplomatic relations with Israel and participating in the Middle Eastern peace process.

[Ben-'Ami] We are speaking at a welcoming ceremony for the latest model F-16's from the United States. How do you explain the contradiction here between receiving new aircraft and at the same time talking of arms control and criticizing arms supplies by the United States, Western countries, and other countries to the Arabs?

[Arens] Well, I said in my remarks here that it is evidently our fate here in the State of Israel to stand the few against the very many. The condition therefore for progress towards peace in the area is that Israel be strong. If Israel be weak, God forbid, or be perceived as being weak by the surrounding Arab states, that will be the end of the peace process and that will mean a very serious problem for the State of Israel.

[Ben-'Ami] Israel still has an Air Force navigator and six soldiers missing somewhere in Lebanon. There are reports that the International Red Cross [IRC] has been told that Ron Arad, the missing navigator, is alive. Have you heard anything about this? What is the situation regarding the seven Israelis?

[Arens] We have received no official notification from any official body, nor from the IRC.

[Ben-'Ami] Is there anything that you feel is going on with regard to resolving the hostage situation. It seemed a week or two ago that things were moving; now it looks as if they are back in a status quo freeze.

[Arens] Well I cannot confirm that nor can I deny that. The man at the center of the stage on this issue is the secretary general of the United Nations. I have no doubt

that he is making very intense efforts to see if he cannot resolve this problem, and make sure that hostages, prisoners, MIA's be returned to their homes and we are giving him whatever assistance we can. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT on 22 August adds: "Defense Minister Moshe Arens said that those who want to delay the peace process are the same people who wanted the USSR coup to succeed, and added that Israel welcomes Gorbachev's return to power. According to him, there is no reason to delay the political process at present. The defense minister made these remarks while attending a reception ceremony by the Israeli Air Force of two upgraded F-16's."]

Levi Summons Consul To Report on USSR Coup

TA2208173091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister David Levi summoned Arye Levin, Israel's consul general in Moscow, to Israel to report on the aborted coup and the recent developments in the USSR. Mr. Levin will arrive in Israel next week.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the heads of the Foreign Ministry today discussed the events in the USSR and their effects. Minister Levi said in the discussion that the failure of the attempted revolution allows the continuation of aliyah and the positive trend in the ties between the blocs and between the USSR and Israel.

Soviet Consul 'Disappointed' by Shamir 'Silence'

Meets With Officials

TA2208190291 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Aleksey Chistyakov, the Soviet consul general in Israel, was very disappointed by the Israeli reaction to the coup attempt in his country. He said that he was mainly disappointed by the silence maintained by Prime Minister Shamir during the days of uncertainty.

Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik learned that the Soviet consul made these statements during talks with Israeli officials. He claimed he was disappointed because Gorbachev was the man who had enabled the emigration of Soviet Jews and brought about the positive developments in the two countries' relations.

Our correspondent was told that the Soviet representative was even more infuriated by the fact that the prime minister praised his own silence. Chistyakov also expressed his disappointment with officials such as [Histadrut chairman] Yisra'el Qeysar, and Agriculture Minister Refa'el Eytan, who hastened to note the favorable impressions they received in their meetings with the leaders of those who conspired against Gorbachev.

Our correspondent estimates that the Soviet representatives will send reports along these lines to Moscow.

Our political correspondent also reports that sources in Jerusalem estimate that within a few days U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will announce his intention to return to the region in September to conclude the preparations for the international conference. The sources are highly doubtful that the conference will indeed convene as planned at the beginning of October.

Denies Criticizing Reaction

TA2208201491 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Aleksey Chistyakov, the Soviet consul general in Israel, vehemently denied having criticized Prime Minister Shamir's silence during the failed coup attempt in the USSR.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that Chistyakov called officials at the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem today and said that the opposite was true and that there was great appreciation in the Soviet Union for the position taken by Mr. Shamir and the Israeli Government during the crisis as well as for the statements made by Shamir and by President Herzog.

Government Response to Soviet Events 'Two-Faced'

TA2308094991 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Aug 91 p 3

[Editorial: "Where Was Israel?"]

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir complimented himself yesterday by saying that he "was pleased that he had kept silent during the failed coup attempt in the Soviet Union," but he did not bother to explain the reasons behind his satisfaction.

Two days earlier our political correspondent asked officials at the Foreign Ministry and at the Prime Minister's Office for the Israeli Government's official response, but they were unwilling to say anything about the illegal putsch and refused to condemn it. Israel continued to take this position even after the U.S. President and most of the leaders of Europe and Japan had stood unequivocally on the side of democracy and legitimacy. Israel had a special reason to come out with a word in support of Gorbachev, who had opened the gates for Soviet immigration.

This is not the first time that the Israeli Government has adopted a cowardly approach on the fundamental principle of identification with democratic and humanitarian issues throughout the world. This approach was not desirable this time because unprincipled positions are not beneficial in the long run.

Foreign Minister David Levi yesterday scorned the Arab elements that had supported the failed coup, but the Israeli Government's hesitant waiting on the sidelines to see how things worked out and who emerged victorious was not that far removed from their approach. David Levi claimed that the PLO revealed its true face during the recent events in the Soviet Union, but where was David Levi and the entire government when things were happening? They were silently waiting on the sidelines.

The government has in the past adopted silence as its official position regarding such events when its voice should have been heard on statements by Chancellor Kohl, in hushing up criticism of South Africa, in debasing itself before Japan when the president was visiting there, in the lack of condemnation of Ceausescu until his demise, and in other similar affairs. Shamir and Levi were not in Moscow, and they were not threatened by the approaching tanks. They preferred to keep quiet for opportunistic reasons, claiming that Israel should not intervene in matters that do not concern it directly. A government, however, cannot stand up and demand the world's support for its positions when it cannot summon the minimum of courage necessary to take a stand on similar events effecting others.

What already could have happened if Shamir would have taken a position, similar to that of U.S. President George Bush, calling for the restoration of the legal institutions and the reinstatement of Gorbachev in power, and condemning the illegal use of force. No damage could have been caused by such a statement. It would merely have brought respect, regardless of who won in the Soviet Union.

Therefore, if Foreign Minister David Levi believes that the PLO has revealed its true face, one can add that the Israeli Government acted in a dishonorable, two-faced manner in this affair.

Levi Discusses PLO Role With Visiting Minister

TA2208182691 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi spoke by phone today with his Dutch counterpart. Levi told Van den Broek that the Europeans were mistaken yet again in their estimation of the PLO and extreme Arab states.

In their conversation today, Levi said that last August they stood by the side of Saddam Husayn, this August with the temporary hardline regime in the Soviet Union. Levi said that the PLO cannot have any constructive role to play in the peace process.

Qol Yisra'el's diplomatic reporter says the phone call was initiated by the Dutch foreign minister.

SLA's Lahd Releases 2 Detainees in Lebanon

TA2308091791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] General Lahd this week released two Sunni detainees from the al-Khiyam jail: Karim Sa'd and Muhammad 'Atabi from the village of Shab'a at the foot of Mount Hermon. The two had been jailed in al-Khiyam for three years on charges of having cooperated with a terrorist organization. Our correspondent learned from the South Lebanese Army's [SLA] command that the release has nothing to do with the negotiations over the release of POW's and kidnapped people.

SLA Soldiers Killed, Others Wounded 22-23 Aug

TA2308073291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] A South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldier was killed and four others were wounded on the border of the security zone in southern Lebanon when a large bomb exploded at the side of the road. Hizballah assumed responsibility for this terrorist act. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht learned from the UNIFIL [United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon] Command that, SLA artillery and tanks responded and are shelling the Shiite village of Bra'shit north of the security zone. UN officers report that dozens of shells have been fired at the village.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 23 August, in a page A9 report by correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz, adds that "an SLA soldier was killed yesterday afternoon when his vehicle hit a mine in the eastern sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon. It is believed that the mine had been planted a few hours earlier.

"The SLA imposed a night curfew on three Shiite villages outside the security zone in southern Lebanon: Jarju', al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh"]

Ozal Refusal To Invite Israel to Talks Viewed

TA2308100091 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 91 p A1

[Excerpts] Turkish President Turgut Ozal sent a special letter to U.S. President George Bush notifying him that he cannot invite Israel to the regional water conference, to be held in Turkey in November, due to the objection presented by Syria and other Arab countries. The Americans expressed their disappointment over Ozal's decision and said that it is inconceivable that a serious discussion of Mideast water issues be held without Israel's participation, mainly at a time when efforts are being made to advance the peace process. [passage omitted]

Sources in Israel have said that Ozal's surrender to Syrian pressure is viewed as an unfriendly act toward Israel and one that is hard to understand in view of the international efforts to promote the international peace conference. When pressed by the Americans, the Turkish president avoided a direct reply, saying that if the United States manages to convene the regional peace conference in October, he might reconsider inviting Israel to the water conference as well.

Congolese Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

To Resume Relations

TA2208092891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Aug 91 p A6

[ITIM report]

[Text] Jean-Blaise Kololo, Congo's minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, came to Israel yesterday on a three-day visit to resume diplomatic relations between Brazzaville and Jerusalem.

Replying to journalists' questions, Kololo said reports about the failure of the coup in the Soviet Union were "positive." He was briefed on the latest developments by Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas, who greeted him at the airport.

Kololo noted: "We followed the developments in Moscow with great concern. Had the democratization process in the Soviet Union been halted, old demons would have been reawakened, and all those in Africa who dream about crushing democratization would have lifted their heads."

He added that a warm and friendly attitude toward Israel is emerging in Africa and that, following in Congo's footsteps, many countries on the continent will probably want to resume relations with Israel.

In his meeting today with Foreign Minister David Levi, the Congolese guest will sign the protocol for the resumption of diplomatic relations. Kololo will also meet with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and with Science and Energy Minister Yuval Ne'eman.

Signs Cooperation Agreements

TA2208105791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Report by political correspondent Arye Golan]

[Text] Foreign Ministers David Levi and Jean-Blaise Kololo today signed agreements of cooperation between Israel and Congo. Our questions, however, naturally referred to the events in the USSR and Gorbachev's return to power. Minister Levi sharply criticized the Arab elements who were so quick to rejoice at the plot to overthrow Gorbachev.

[Begin Levi recording] We already observed some very serious events; we have seen several parties gloating over what happened in the USSR over the past few days. These parties even expected and hoped that reactionary forces would prevail, calling it balance. What balance? Were they hoping that the world would return to the atmosphere of tension, war, and competition between the two blocs? Only he who is blind and cannot see the future could speak of such balance. Only the unbalanced would call this balance. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 22 August carries a similar report by political correspondent Natan Gutman, adding: "Foreign Minister David Levi said today: Now, we can renew the dialogue with the USSR about convening the regional peace conference."]

The African foreign minister also expressed his full satisfaction with the victory of democracy in the USSR. The Congolese foreign minister said that it would have been very regrettable had the forces of evil won. He added: We are very pleased that they failed and that the democratic world won.

To Set Up Embassy in Jerusalem

TA2208141791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Congo, which recently renewed its diplomatic relations with Israel, will set up its embassy in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Arye Golan reports that the Congolese foreign minister said this in a conversation with his counterpart David Levi. According to him, setting up an embassy in Jerusalem is the natural thing to do, and no other option is possible.

At lunch today, the Congolese foreign minister said that after the Yom Kippur War, a minority of politicians decided to cut off the links with Jerusalem, although the people of Congo opposed this decision. He said that the parties and political currents in his country decided that the links should be reestablished.

Government Rejects Polish Extradition Request

TA2108140191 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 21 Aug 91 p B1

[Report by Barukh Me'iri]

[Excerpt] A senior source at the Justice Ministry last night confirmed that Israel will reject the Polish Government's extradition request against Boguslaw Bagsik, the leader of the Polish group involved in the Paz deal.

Sources at the Justice Ministry explained the decision by saying that Israel and Poland have no extradition agreement, which makes it difficult for Israel to accept the Polish request. They said: "This is not a question of finding a loophole which will allow the extradition. There is no agreement between the two countries; therefore, this request will have to be denied." [passage omitted]

Ambassador to Ethiopia Explains Emigration Delay

TA2308094891 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Aug 91 p A8

[Report by Gid'on Alon]

[Text] Asher Na'im, Israel's ambassador in Ethiopia, claims that the delay in the departure of the 600 Jews from Addis Ababa is the result of disagreements within the Ethiopian regime between the Immigration [as published] and Foreign Ministries. In a cable to the Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem explaining the delay in flying Jews to Israel, Na'im writes that these disagreements stem from the accusations by several persons in the regime who have charged that the Ethiopian immigration authorities have no power to deal with the emigration of Jews. The ambassador will discuss the issue with the Ethiopian foreign minister on 25 August.

Na'im says that there is no link between the delay and the publicity over the emigration. He says: "Unlike

previous occasions, this time the Ethiopians have raised no demands—not even in a hint—concerning the need to prevent publicizing the issue. I personally favored publication." He adds: "I believed that it would be impossible to hide the flying of hundreds of immigrants from Addis Ababa in an operation that could last weeks and months, mainly because they would be taken on civilian flights."

The Foreign Ministry spokesman has also rejected the linkage between the delay in the Jews' departure and the publicity given their authorization to do so. He said: "The sharp criticism senior sources at the Jewish Agency leveled at the Foreign Ministry concerning its treatment of the exodus of Jews from Ethiopia and the allegations linking the delay with the publication of the approval the Ethiopian authorities have given are vicious and baseless."

In another cable to Jerusalem, Na'im comments on reports that Mikha Feldman, the head of the Ethiopian desk at the Jewish Agency (who has the status of a consul and is subordinate to Israel's ambassador in Ethiopia), reported to his superiors that, when he arrived in Addis Ababa at the beginning of last week, he realized that no Jews are expected to leave any time soon. The ambassador noted that he had warned Feldman not to wage any wars over this issue and to behave like any other member of the Israeli Embassy staff.

Police To Interrogate al-Husayni, 'Ashrawi Soon

TA2008134291 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] The police will summon Faysal al-Husayni and Dr. Hannan 'Ashrawi for an interrogation within a short time following the reports that they met PLO representatives while visiting London. The police told our correspondent Shim'on Vilna'i that, unlike in the Abie Nathan affair, the police decided not to arrest them when they arrived at the airport today, but will summon them for interrogation in the usual manner by sending notices of summons to their homes.

Court Rejects Demjanjuk Appeal; Trial Postponed

TA1408151791 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 14 Aug 91

[Text] The Supreme Court today rejected the appeal by Attorney Yoram Sheftel that John Ivan Demjanjuk be released. Our correspondent Gil Litman notes that, with this action, the court accepted the prosecution's request that the trial be resumed in December. State Attorney Mikha'el Shaqed asked that the trial be postponed until then because he is waiting for additional evidence due to arrive from the USSR.

State Comptroller Reports SHAS 'Irregularities'

TA2008105091 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] State Comptroller Miryam Ben-Porat today issued a special report on the Party Funding Law for the period of April 1990 to March 1991. Again there are irregularities attributed to the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] Party.

According to the comptroller's report, the SHAS accountant deposited 230,000 shekels without documentation of the source of the money. SHAS representatives claim the monies were donations made by people who asked to remain anonymous. The comptroller rejects the explanation and has decided to impose a fine on the SHAS Party, as well as to hold back 30 of the regular payments the party normally receives under the terms of the Party Funding Law. The current fine is to be put off until SHAS completes paying a previous fine imposed for irregularities.

King Husayn Congratulates Gorbachev, Yeltsin

JN2208161691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn sent a cable to His Excellency USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev congratulating him on the success the Soviet Union scored by riding out the grave crisis it experienced, with its peaceful resolution marking a major triumph for the cause of legitimacy.

His majesty also sent a cable to His Excellency President Boris Yeltsin of the Russian Republic, congratulating him on the triumph of legitimacy and democracy in his country.

Al-Nusur Views Peace Conference, Arab Contacts

JN2208111891 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 22 Aug 91 p 3

[Interview with Foreign Minister Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur in al-Salt on 16 August by unidentified AKHBAR AL-USBU' correspondent]

[Text] [Correspondent] Has Jordan officially announced its agreement to attend the international peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] We have not yet officially announced our acceptance of the U.S. initiative to convene the conference in any form, because our stands are based on several principles, including the principle that there should be a comprehensive solution to the Middle East issue and the Palestine question, not separate or partial solutions.

Jordan will not go to the conference alone and will not attend any conference without the participation of the PLO and the Palestinians. Our differences with others are only in terms of others' support or withdrawal of support for the Palestine question. The position on the Palestine question is a criterion for the strength and solidity of our relationship with any party. How can we go alone to address the Palestinian question? We are not its legitimate representatives, but we support its representatives.

Jordan is totally and sincerely committed to the PLO as the sole representative of Palestinian rights and the Palestinian people's right to say their word freely, without custodianship or pressure from anyone.

[Correspondent] It has been noticed that the relationship and coordination between Jordan and the PLO at this critical stage is lukewarm. Why is this?

[Al-Nusur] We maintain very close coordination with the PLO, and we have very strong confidence in each other. There are absolutely no problems. The Palestinians seek to deliver a strong message to all Arab and Palestinian parties that they are independent in their decisionmaking. This is true. That is why the PLO fears that if its contacts with Jordan are made public, then some might wrongly believe that Jordan is pressuring them. We do not want others to get this impression, because we have no interest in misrepresenting the Palestinian stance. We support the Palestinians' right to represent themselves, and this stance is irreversible.

[Correspondent] Do you not think that it is better for the PLO to remain outside the conference in the beginning, and that its participation at a later stage would constitute an element of pressure on Israel? Why are the Palestinians so very eager to attend right from the very beginning?

[Al-Nusur] I do not agree that the Palestinians are very eager to negotiate. I think they are realistic in their analysis of the situation and the political status quo, and they also know that the current Arab and Palestinian situation has changed from that of a year ago. There have been immense changes on the Arab and international scenes, and now there is the fear that the occupied territories might be swallowed up and filled with emigrants in a manner which will be impossible to ignore in the future, and which would make it difficult even to think about uprooting Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The Palestinians also know that having rights alone is not enough, because in order for rights to be established, we need force. Rights accompanied by weakness achieve weak and incomplete solutions.

[Correspondent] It has been reported that Yasir 'Arafat will visit Jordan. Does his visit have anything to do with the awaited Palestinian reply on participation in the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] Yasir 'Arafat is expected to arrive in Jordan soon, and he will acquaint us with the Palestinian position that will be adopted by the PLO Executive Committee.

[Correspondent] But Palestinian sources have said that the Palestinian reply on participation in the conference will not be formulated before the meeting of the Palestine National Council [PNC]?

[Al-Nusur] I do not think that the Palestinian decision to participate in the conference is linked to the PNC meeting, because the Executive Committee is the party responsible for making that decision. At any rate, it is a Palestinian affair to be decided by Palestinian legitimacy.

[Correspondent] How can the Arabs go to a fateful conference while severe differences exist among them? Do you not think that there is a dire need now to convene a summit meeting only for the countries concerned with the conference?

[Al-Nusur] Under the present circumstances, there must be a minisummit so that the confrontation states can agree on a single strategy with which they can face the unified Israeli stance. We have called for convening an expanded Arab summit meeting as well as a quadripartite summit to clear the Arab atmosphere and eliminate marginal differences among Arab leaders. What is going to happen in the future is very serious and historic, and no one Arab country can face it alone. It is unthinkable

that peace should prevail with the historic enemy of the Arab nation, while enmity remains among lifelong brothers.

[Correspondent] Has there been any positive reaction to the calls for the summits you have mentioned?

[Al-Nusur] There has been no response to the call for holding a full Arab summit, but there is agreement about a four-way summit. The convening of this minisummit is contingent upon receiving the Palestinian response to participation in the peace conference. I believe this response is imminent and will be positive. The Palestinian response to the formation of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to the conference will be positive.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that the four-way summit is on hold until the Palestinian answer is received?

[Al-Nusur] Yes. All concerned parties have agreed to attend the summit as soon as we receive the Palestinian response.

[Correspondent] Are you optimistic and confident about U.S. credibility in bringing about a just peace, and about the outcome of the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] In my expectations, I am optimistic. I expect the peace conference to be held in October, but I fear that the conference may end in a deadlock due to Israel's intransigence. This would delay a solution to the Palestinian question for a long time. If the conference leads to a just and honorable solution, based on the attainment of Palestinian political rights, the peace will be permanent. On the other hand, if peace is established based on Israel's blackmail of the legitimate Arab and Palestinian rights—as Israel has always done using its own power or the support of the West—the peace conference will be nothing but a delayed war. An extension between peace and agreements should, therefore, be made.

[Correspondent] What are the results of the U.S. teams' recent visits to the region? Were the visits meant for preparing ideas for separate and partial deals and talks?

[Al-Nusur] The U.S. teams held talks with Jordanian officials, with some Palestinians, and with Israeli officials at these sides' request. Jordan wanted to make sure that the U.S. Administration's understanding of President Bush's plan stems from the Security Council resolutions, which are based on the principle of exchanging land for peace. Jordan wanted to make sure that the U.S. understanding is that all territories occupied after 4 June 1967, including Jerusalem, are occupied lands, that their annexation is illegal, and that the negotiations will include all of these territories, without excluding any area or group of people, whether in Jerusalem or elsewhere. We wanted to emphasize the Jerusalem residents' right to take part in any referendum on the future of their cause, and to emphasize that the political and historical rights of the Palestinians cannot be denied or harmed, and that the Palestinians have the right to raise these demands at any negotiations concerning their final status. So, the purpose of the teams' visits was to give U.S. assurances to Jordan, not Jordanian assurances to the United States.

[Correspondent] Have you received written U.S. assurances about Palestinian rights and a U.S. commitment for the implementation of the Security Council resolutions?

[Al-Nusur] The U.S. team that visited Jordan has not presented any written answers to Jordan's questions. Jordan insists on receiving a written answer from the United States, and on the basis of this answer, Jordan will declare its acceptance of the U.S. plan announced by the U.S. President on 6 March—the plan that is based on a land-for-peace exchange and on attainment of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The U.S. position has changed, especially on Jerusalem. For the first time, the United States is considering Jerusalem part of the occupied territories.

[Correspondent] Jordanian-U.S. relations are witnessing a period of tension and instability. The United States has cut off military and economic aid to Jordan. Has there been any improvement in these relations as an initial step toward convening the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] We must distinguish between the U.S. Administration and the U.S. Congress; U.S. aid is decided by the endorsement of both sides. The U.S. Administration has recently tried to convince Congress to release scheduled aid for Jordan, and it partially succeeded. U.S. assistance is small, however, and whether it is given it only measures political trends. At any rate, the U.S. Administration is serious in its attempt to convince the Congress to change its negative position toward Jordan.

[Correspondent] Are you going to visit the United States soon to explain some positions related to the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] I will visit the United States during the third week of September to participate in the UN General Assembly session, which will include foreign ministers from around the world. I have not been officially invited to visit Washington.

[Correspondent] Is there a connection between the timing of the new UN General Assembly session and the peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] There is no connection.

[Correspondent] Are you soon going to embark on diplomatic efforts with the foreign ministers of the European, Islamic, and Arab countries?

[Al-Nusur] Several meetings have been arranged with numerous foreign ministers of the Security Council member states, as well as with the foreign ministers of European, Arab, Islamic, and nonaligned countries during my visit to New York. I will discuss with them the latest developments and efforts to convene the peace conference.

[Correspondent] Have you received a definite date or agenda for the proposed peace conference?

[Al-Nusur] We have thus far not been informed as to a specific date for the conference, other than what was agre d upon between the U.S. and Soviet presidents, that is, next October.

[Correspondent] In light of the acceleration of events in the region, are you satisfied with the level of Jordanian-Syrian coordination, especially since Syria is a primary party, concerned directly with the conference?

[Al-Nusur] Coordination between Jordan and Syria is under way, but at this stage it is not at the required level. Bilateral contacts have been, and continue to be held, and I have contacted Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. We must upgrade these contacts to realize an advanced level of full coordination.

[Correspondent] Why don't you visit Syria to discuss your concerns and goals?

[Al-Nusur] A few days ago, I received an invitation from Faruq al-Shar' to visit Syria and coordinate stances between the two countries, and I will visit Syria sometime within the next few days.

[Correspondent] What about coordination with our brothers in the Arab Republic of Egypt?

[Al-Nusur] Over the past weeks, contacts were held at various levels between our two countries, and I hope that these contacts have enhanced bilateral coordination. During the Islamic foreign ministers' meetings in Istanbul, I met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and we agreed to work in both countries toward restoring warmth to our bilateral relations. I have invited him to visit Jordan and I received a similar invitation from him to visit Egypt.

[Correspondent] Jordan's chairmanship of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] has expired. Do you think the failure to shift chairmanship to Egypt, or to breathe life into the Council, means the end of the ACC?

[Al-Nusur] The ACC is still standing, and, so far, no member state has demanded its dissolution. Jordan, the General Secretariat's host country, believes it is duty bound to extend all facilities and care to the council, and we hope that the others will follow suit. Not one of the member states has requested an ACC meeting in any form or at any level.

[Correspondent] Tension still prevails in Jordan's relations with the Arabian Gulf countries. Has Jordan taken any initiatives to once again normalize these relations and give them some life?

[Al-Nusur] Jordan wishes to strengthen its fraternal relations with the Gulf countries. Contacts are continuing in all directions and in various forms—some directly. So far, not enough rapprochement has taken place. I am optimistic, however, about the return of relations to their correct course once all the facts become clear.

Our call for bridging the gap stems from our conviction of the soundness of the Jordan's position during the Gulf war. We in Jordan did not accept the invasion and war between Iraq and Kuwait. We maintained our recognition of Kuwait's right to independence, even when the government was in exile. Jordan did not send armies, equipment, or weapons to any party because our stand was balanced and correct.

[Correspondent] Are diplomatic relations between Jordan and some Gulf countries still frozen?

[Al-Nusur] The level of diplomatic representation between Jordan and the Gulf countries is deficient. We have ambassadors there, and we have ambassadors from those fraternal countries here in Jordan. Some diplomatic missions, however, were downscaled, and some ambassadors who were recalled have not yet returned. We have excellent proof that this situation will soon be rectified, God willing.

[Correspondent] Has the Jordanian embassy in Kuwait been reopened?

[Al-Nusur] The Jordanian ambassador in Kuwait is still accredited, but the Jordanian embassy is closed. There has been no opposition to reopening the Jordanian embassy there, and we are hoping the Jordanian ambassador will return to Kuwait and perform his duties and work in that fraternal country, which was and will continue to be a dear and cherished brother. There is no reason our embassy needs to be kept closed.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion of the Security Council's latest resolution which allows Iraq to sell part of its oil under very harsh and unfair conditions?

[Al-Nusur] Iraq is the rightful beneficiary of its resources in the amount and way it wishes to determine for itself, and not the way others dictate. I am surprised by the unconvincing and illegal formulations and justifications the Security Council is using as a pretext for its decision—its fear that the oil revenues will be used to manufacture and buy weapons. This is a rejected and unjustified pretext. The ban on export of weapons to Iraq is clear, and the sources of armament are known. They adhere to this ban.

In addition, the harsh conditions and the sum specified by the Security Council—that one-third of Iraqi oil revenues must go the reparations' fund—is a ridiculous amount which can barely cover the basic needs of the Iraqi people.

We criticize the resolution in form and content. We also consider it an unjust resolution, the objective of which is to harm the Iraqi people even more, these people who are suffering from great woes as a result of the economic siege imposed on them, which could result in the death of thousands of innocent children who need medicine and food.

[Correspondent] When will the Soviet foreign minister visit Jordan?

[Al-Nusur] We welcome the Soviet foreign minister's visit to Jordan at any time. We have not, however, received anything indicating the Soviet minister's desire to visit Jordan since he declared that he will visit Israel.

Death Sentences for 5 Palestinians Repealed

JN2308074691 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 24 Aug 91 p 4

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Jawdat al-Subul's decision to repeal the death sentences passed by a military court against five political convicts has generated various reactions. Some believe the step marks the beginning of a process to revise all sentences against political detainees, while others view it as a limited step meant to absorb Amnesty International's pressure on the government.

The interior minister made the decision to commute the death sentence to 15-year imprisonment while an Amnesty International team was visiting Jordan.

The organization started a large-scale drive to cancel the death sentences against 'Abdallah Yusuf al-Hasan al-Mansur, Qusayy Subhi 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu-Salim, Majid 'Isam Dawud al-Sayfi, Muhammad Hasan Dawud al-Sayfi, and Dirar Mustafa al-Sayfi. It called on all its members throughout the world to send appeals to His Majesty King Husayn to repeal the death sentences.

Amnesty International's report says four of the convicts were arrested in October 1989 and are still in prison. The sentence against the fifth—Dirar—was passed in absentia. The report adds that the five were accused of membership in an outlawed Palestinian organization and of using explosives for illegitimate purposes. They were sentenced to death last March and told they could not appeal because the sentences were passed by a court martial. [passage omitted]

Competition for BCCI's Jordan Operations Noted

JN2208101291 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22-23 Aug 91 p 7

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P. V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—The race to acquire the Jordan operations of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) has been narrowed to five Jordanian institutions, with three of them in pursuit of the bonus of the commercial banking licence involved in the deal.

Eight Jordanian banks and institutions were invited to bid for the three branches of the BCCI in Jordan, but three of them bowed out last week saying they were not interested.

That left two commercial banks—the Jordan National Bank and the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC)—and three investment institutions—the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank, the Union Bank for Investments and the Business Bank—in the field.

The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), which took over BCCI Jordan in early July and appointed a panel to supervise the local operations of the internationally troubled bank, has set Aug. 25 as the deadline for submission of offers for the three BCCI branches in the Kingdom.

The five left in the field are studying an auditors' report on the status of the BCCI in Jordan. The report is described as highly positive by sources familiar with the document who say that it has clearly underlined the sound financial status of BCCI in Jordan.

"The sound position of the bank is behind non-Jordanian Arab interest in acquiring BCCI Jordan," said an official source. "But in all probability the bank will be sold to a local party."

While the Jordan National Bank and ABC already have commercial banking licences, any successful bidder from the other three in the field will have the additional benefit of the commercial license of the BCCI, banking circles noted.

"Definitely the offers of the three investment corporations will be higher than that of the commercial banks," said one senior banking-executive.

One of the essential components of any bid, as sought by the CBJ, is an undertaking that none of the 90 or so employees at the BCCI branches would be dismissed during the first one year and that all their employment benefits are guaranteed under the acquisition deal.

The CBJ, which has been steadily following a policy of trying to limit the number of commercial banks in Jordan, is known to favour selling the BCCI operations to an already existing Jordanian bank.

"Only if none of the five comes up with an acceptable offer, the CBJ will consider its option of selling BCCI to either a new Jordanian entity or a foreign buyer," said a banking source.

Non-Jordanian Arab approaches to acquire BCCI "have been put in the backburner by the CBJ pending the outcome of its first option offer to local banks," added the source, who preferred anonymity.

Bankers credit the CBJ for having foreseen the international collapse of the BCCI and ordering BCCI Jordan in April this year to transfer all of its foreign exchange accounts to the CBJ, thus ensuring BCCI liquidity nd protecting public funds in the Kingdom regardless of its deep troubles elsewhere.

Close to JD [Jordanian dinars] 15 million have already been withdrawn from the BCCI Jordan accounts under limited withdrawals permitted by the CBJ since the takeover.

Total deposits remaining with BCCI Jordan are worth around JD 50 million—including foreign currency accounts—and advances and loans due to the bank total JD 21 million.

BCCI officials say that the bank's liabilities are adequately covered on the assets side and that the outstanding dues to the bank carry strong collateral and guarantees.

International BCCI liabilities do not cover the bank's Jordan operations and assests under the standing CBJ regulations applicable to all commercial banks in the Kingdom regardless of their ownership or operations abroad.

Israel Said Obstructing Peace Process

JN2308075891 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Aug 91 p 1

[Editorial: "Using Soviet Developments as a Pretext for Obstructing the Peace Process"]

[Text] Israel is now trying to obstruct the peace process in the Middle East and to postpone the proposed peace conference for several weeks. This time Israel's pretext is the dramatic series of developments in the Soviet Union, given that the proposed conference will be cosponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union.

Israel, seeing a new impetus in Soviet developments, is doing its utmost to weaken this impetus and avoid going to the expected October peace conference under the pressure of international accord and full harmony between Washington and Moscow.

Soviet events and the concomitant tension, which were about to undermine East-West accord, showed to what extent the entire world needs peace, openness, and accord. Only Israel among all states of the world believes otherwise. In fact, it is working to postpone the peace process under unconvincing pretexts.

Undoubtedly, this new maneuver is another link in the chain of Israeli moves since the U.S. secretary of state started his efforts to convene a peace conference. This clearly shows that Israel's agreement to participate in the proposed peace conference is another familiar Israeli maneuver.

Israel's impossible conditions for its final consent to join the peace conference prove that the Shamir government is proceeding with the same old maneuver to obstruct the conference or decide the results of any possible negotiations with the Arabs in advance.

In view of that, we believe that the positive effects of Soviet developments on the relationship between Moscow and Washington provide a better chance for the convening of a peace conference cosponsored by the two superpowers, especially since these developments showed to what extent nations of the world need peace and coexistence. They also showed the severity of the dangers entailed in the continued tension between nations and peoples.

Changing Stands on USSR Events Criticized

JN2308095391 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 23 Aug 91 p 2

["An Issue and an Opinion" column by Slamah 'Ukur: "The Bitter Fact"]

[Text] Since the declaration that Gorbachev was back in power, I have been asking with severe sadness and pain that caused me fatigue and several sleepless nights:

—Why do Palestinian and Arab forces, organizations, and political figures with nationalist, pan-Arab, or democratic affiliations go back on their declared stands and statements supporting the ouster of Gorbachev, and declare their support for his return to power? Which of the two stands is correct?

—Why does a spirit of opportunism dominate the behavior and stands of those forces, organizations, and figures? They support the victor whether he is right or wrong, and denounce the defeated—no matter how legitimate his attempt was, and no matter how correct, honest, and principled his stands and principles were.

—Why are those who supported Gorbachev's overthrow; condemned his era, policies, and the deviation of perestroyka; selected the finest words to voice support for the Soviet leadership represented by the emergency committee that toppled Gorbachev; and expressed happiness through various means and praised in song and story the new leader, going back on their stands with such speed following Gorbachev's return to power and the failure of the attempted change in the Soviet Union?

—Were they not convinced of what they said and declared about the toppling of Gorbachev, or of what they wrote and stated about the demerits of the Gorbachev era and the Soviet Union's domestic and foreign policy?

—After Gorbachev's return to power, what do those people consider to be worthy of support and commendation in the era of Gorbachev and Yeltsin? What has changed overnight?

Have administrative and economic corruption, the influence of mafia gangs, the selling out to multinational companies, and the exacerbating crimes and social and moral deviations come to an end?

Has the Gorbachev leadership's overwhelming tendency to rely on America and its Western allies to resolve the fatal economic problems in the Soviet Union in return for abandoning socialism, scrapping its achievements, and adopting the free market economy in the Western capitalist style come to an end?

Has the era of trading the Soviet stands and weight in the international arena for scraps of aid from America and its allies come to an end?

Has Soviet Jewish emigration and the shirking of responsibility toward oppressed peoples and national liberation

movements in the world and leaving them to the imperialist bloc's violations, aggressions, and cravings for their resources come to an end?

What happened overnight to jump from one stand to the other?

We can attribute this shameful phenomenon among Arab forces and organizations to their failure to depend on themselves, their own resources and struggle, and on their will. This denied them the ability to adhere to principled stands.

The failure of an attempt does not for one moment mean that it was wrong, and Gorbachev's return to power does not at all mean that he was right.

The fact, despite its bitterness, must be said under all circumstances.

Husayn Receives Moroccan King's Envoy, Note

JN2208183691 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] At the Royal Palace in al-'Aqabah today, His Majesty King Husayn received Mr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb, adviser and envoy of His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. Boutaleb delivered to his majesty a letter from the Moroccan monarch concerning regional developments and bilateral ties. The Moroccan envoy's visit to Jordan is in the course of a tour of Arab countries.

Correction to Editorial on King's Visit

CM2308161791

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Editorial on King's Visit," published in the 21 August Near East and South Asia DAILY REPORT, page 23:

Column one, make sourceline read: Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 21 Aug 91 pp 1,17...[correcting name of paper]

Foreign Minister Receives Message From Baker

NC2208111591 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received a written message from his U.S. counterpart, James Baker, through U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Ryan Crocker, the second such message in less than a week.

Foreign Ministry sources said that the message affirms continued U.S. support for the peace conference and U.S. President George Bush's reiteration that more efforts need to be made to make the conference a reality. The message mentioned that the U.S. secretary of state will tour some Middle East countries in September.

Storming Campaign To Include Palestinian Camps

NC2308062991 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Defense Minister Michel al-Murr has declared that the storming campaign launched by the Lebanese Army and internal security forces as of yesterday will cover all the Lebanese areas in which the Army has deployed. He emphasized that the storming campaign will include the Palestinian camps and will continue for 15 days or more.

Resistance Claims Attack Against Patrol 23 Aug

NC2308062691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] The martyrs Husayn Yasin and Jamal Fawwaz group of the Islamic Resistance ambushed a hostile foot patrol and detonated an explosive charge on the Bra'shit-Bayt Yahun road at 0605 today. All 10 members of the patrol were killed or injured in the operation. Afterward the agents' and occupation forces' artillery bombarded Bra'shit and its environs with tank and 120-mm mortar fire.

Israeli Forces, Militia Shell Areas in South

NC2308095691 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0900 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] According to reports received from the south, the areas of Jarju', al-Luwayzah, and Mlikh came under mortar and tank fire from the positions held by the Israeli occupation forces and their affiliated militia on 'Ali al-Tahir hill this morning. During the intermittent shelling, two shells fell near a position held by the Lebanese Army in Mlikh at approximately 0800 today.

In another development, Lahd's militia declared a nighttime curfew in the villages of Mlikh, Jarju', and al-Luwayzah as of Monday to prevent operations against it.

Al-Hirawi Receives Kuwaiti Minister, Message

NC2308074791 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Dari al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, delivered a message to President Ilyas al-Hirawi from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah at 0915 this morning. Al-'Uthman said: I have conveyed a message to President al-Hirawi from his highness the amir of Kuwait related to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners of war in Iraq and bilateral affairs. He noted that President al-Hirawi expressed support for the Kuwaiti moves. [passage omitted]

International Delegations Formed by Cabinet

NC2308073291 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Excerpt] During its meeting yesterday evening, the cabinet formed the Lebanese delegation to the UN General Assembly meetings. The delegation comprises President Ilyas al-Hirawi, Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

The cabinet also formed a delegation to the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah [to attend the ceremony marking the completion of the first phase of the manmade river project]. The delegation, which will be led by Prime Minister 'Umar Karami, comprises the justice, information, and foreign ministers, and Ministers of State 'Abdallah al-Amin and Shawqi Fakhuri.

The cabinet also formed the delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers conference with the foreign minister as head. [passage omitted]

Parliamentary Committees Endorse Amnesty Bill

NC2208200291 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1630 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpts] The joint parliamentary committees today endorsed the draft amnesty bill after introducing some amendments, particularly to Article Eight. The government was authorized to issue amnesty decrees for a period of six months rather than one year. In Clause B of the same article, the word expulsion was replaced by the word departure. The provision banning any contacting, meeting, or dealing with any official or unofficial government employee was deleted from the text.

In Article One, the phrase according to conditions was replaced by the phrase according to the provisions of this law.

In Article Two, which deals with pardons, the first clause was left unchanged. The second clause, which concerns misdemeanors, was held in suspension ['ulliqat]. In the clause concerning crimes, sub-clauses A and C were approved, while sub-clause B was held in suspension. [passage omitted]

Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni has invited the deputies to an open session on Monday to discuss and endorse the draft amnesty bill and a draft law introducing some amendments to banking laws. [passage omitted]

Al-Asad Sends Cable Congratulating Gorbachev

JN2208180491 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad sent a cable of congratulations to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on the occasion of the end of the Soviet crisis and the return of legitimate authority. The following is the text of the cable:

President Mikhail Gorbachev, president of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Moscow:

Now that the Soviet Union has overcome the sharp crisis it went through during the past three days, I am happy to send you the warmest congratulations on the end of the crisis, which worried us, as well as the entire world. I congratulate you on the restoration of legitimate authority, which you represent, so that you may continue your efforts for the benefit of the Soviet Union. I affirm to you our concern for the continuation of the significant role your country is playing in the international arena, in working for world peace. We express our special gratitude for the Soviet Union's efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East.

As I express my conviction over the continuing growth of relations of friendship and cooperation—which we have always sought to strengthen between our two countries—I wish you ample good health and success in shouldering the burdens of your important responsibilities. I also wish the people of the Soviet Union much progress, prosperity, and advancement.

[Signed] Hafiz al-Asad

[Dated] 22 August 1991

Al-Shar' Returns After Delivering Message

JN2208163791 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' returned to Damascus this evening after a short visit to Alexandria, during which he delivered a message from President Hafiz al-Asad to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. Mr. al-Shar' also held talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

To see him off at Alexandria's airport were Mr. 'Amr Musa, the Syrian ambassador in Cairo, and the embassy staff.

Kuwaiti Minister Arrives, Makes Statement

JN2108164691 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Dari al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Yasin Rajjuh, minister of state for cabinet affairs; Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Department at the Foreign Ministry; and Badr al-Huti, Kuwaiti charge d'affaires in Damascus.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, al-'Uthman said the aim of his visit to Damascus is to deliver a message to President Hafiz al-Asad from His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, amir of the State of Kuwait, dealing with the exchange of views between the two Arab leaders on various areas of mutual interest. The message also deals with other issues of mutual interest and the issue of Kuwaiti citizens still being held by the Iraqi regime.

Concluding, al-'Uthman praised Syrian's honorable position under President Hafiz al-Asad on the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—a position that greatly contributed to the return of the right and the liberation of Kuwait.

Al-Asad Receives Minister

JN2208105891 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0855 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Damascus, 22 Aug (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Dari al-'Uthman, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, at 1100 today. During the meeting, which was attended by Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs, the president received a message from Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Sharaf's Meeting With U.S. Delegation Noted

JN1708194591 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Aug 91

[Text] Minister of Higher Education Dr. Kamal Sharaf this evening received the delegation representing the National Council for American-Arab Relations. Also present was Aleppo University President Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Huriyah.

During the meeting, the minister talked about the state of higher education in Syria. He pointed out the achievements realized during the blessed Corrective Movement lead by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad in both the fields of higher education and establishing new colleges, as well as democracy in education, university books, dorms, and all the requirements to advance higher education.

After that, the members of the delegation expressed their great admiration for the concern among officials in Syria to develop higher education and scientific research for Syria's development and advancement.

During the meeting, they also discussed bilateral relations between the two countries in the fields of higher education, scientific research, and means to develop and bolster these ties. The two sides indicated their readiness to develop these relations in some areas, such as associating Syrian and U.S. universities, sending Syrian students and lecturers to U.S. universities to study and carry out research, as well as hosting delegations, teachers, and some U.S. students in Syria to deliver scientific lectures, exchange information and expertise in scientific fields, and learn Arabic at Syrian universities.

Afghanistan

President Najibollah Congratulates Gorbachev

LD2208173691 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] The press department of the presidency reported a message from the president of the Republic of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibollah, addressed to His Excellency M.S. Gorbachev, president of the USSR as follows:

Your excellency,

We heard the news that a state coup d'etat in the Soviet Union failed. It is a matter of joy to us that you returned and the situation is under your control. I hope that reconstruction and democracy will develop for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Soviet Union.

The Republic of Afghanistan, which clearly declared its position to the people of the world in the very first moments, is confident that the Soviet Union, as a friendly and neighboriy country and one of the guarantors of the Geneva accords, will fulfill its role in the peaceful political solution of the question of Afghanistan and in helping the people of Afghanistan in this critical juncture in our country's history.

The state of the Republic of Afghanistan will also in the future pursue the policy of national reconciliation for speeding up the political settlement of the Afghan question, which is in accord with the present atmosphere of international understanding and with the interests of the people of Afghanistan.

I am confident that friendly relations between the Soviet Union and Afghanistan will develop in the interests of international peace and understanding based on the principles of good-neighborliness and mutual interests of the people of both countries.

Once again I wish you good health and successes. With regards, Najibollah, president of Afghanistan.

Rebel Leader Calls on Gorbachev To Review Policy

BK2208124291 Hong Kong AFP in English 1226 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan Aug 22 (AFP)—A top resistance leader, claiming that Moscow's Afghan policy was run by the KGB, urged Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Thursday to review the policy following his reinstatement.

Yunes Khales, chief of the fundamentalist Hezb-e Eslami faction, said Gorbachev had consistently acted in the interests of the Soviet Union or the United States, but had done nothing for the Muslim world. Therefore there was little reason to rejoice at his return to power, Khales said.

Khales, a former interior minister in the Pakistan-based government-in-exile of Afghan resistance groups fighting to topple President Najibollah's Soviet-backed regime, said the KGB and the hardline Communists who attempted to depose Gorbachev are responsible for Afghanistan's 13-year-old war.

"We hope wisdom will prevail and Gorbachev and his colleagues will make serious efforts" to resolve the Afghan problem, he added.

Khales said Gorbachev should revise Moscow's Afghan policy, which he said successive Soviet leaders have followed out of "emotional love" for communist allies, and urged Moscow to drop its support for Najibollah and allow the Afghan people to elect a government of their choice.

The coup attempt caused only a few casualties in Moscow yet authorities there have decided to try the coup leaders for acting against the people, Khales said, adding that they should apply the same standard in deciding the fate of the Afghan rulers who are running the country against the wishes of the majority of its people.

The guerrilla leader said the time has come to end bloodshed in Afghanistan, where an estimated 1.6 million people have been killed since the 1979 Soviet-backed coup.

Hekmatyar Group Sets Conditions for Conference

LD2208134891 Tehran IRNA in English 0931 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Islamabad, Aug. 22, IRNA—Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's 'Hizbi Islami' party on Wednesday said that under certain conditions the party would sit at a second joint meet by representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and the leaders of Afghan mujahidin, in Tehran.

A communique of the party published in Peshawar Wednesday night called for a preliminary meeting in Islamabad before the scheduled meeting in Tehran in which to adopt a common stand in relation with Afghanistan and to elect one person as head of the tripartite parties to the conference.

Hekmatyar has also said that the party expects the participation in the Tehran conference of all groups, including the coalition council which is an offshoot of the Wahdat (Unity) Party, as well as all neighboring states of Afghanistan.

Hekmatyar's representative was previously present on behalf of the Islamic Party in the first conference here between representatives from Iran, Pakistan and the leaders of the mujahidin.

Hezb-e-Eslami Successful Against Rival Faction

BK2208120791 Hong Kong AFP in English 1155 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Peshawar, Pakistan, Aug 22 (AFP)—The Afghan resistance faction Hezb-e-Eslami has retaken its positions from the rival Salafi group in northeastern Kunar Province, the faction's news agency here said Thursday. The Hezb, led by Golboddin Hekmatyar, had to "raise arms" after the Salafi group, headed by Maulvi Jamilur

Rehman, rejected offers to resolve differences peacefully, the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY (ANA) said. The Saudi-backed Salafi faction was forced to "retreat" from Hezb "military centres" that they had "occupied" in Kunar recently, ANA added. No comment was available from the Salafi group. The Hezb gave no details of the fighting, but reports Tuesday from the province, which is close to the Pakistan border, said both sides had suffered heavy casualties. Sources in Peshawar from the two camps said at least 10 people had died in the clashes.

'Extremists' Crushed in 3 Provinces

LD2208202291 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Units and companies of Kabul garrison command carried out combat and mopping-up operations in Vardak Province. According to a report by the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section, during the operations a number of war-mongering extremists were crushed and a surface-to-air blow pipe missile, one rocket launcher, two DSHK's, two (Barnau) machineguns, seven Kalashnikovs, six surface-to-surface missiles, 72 boxes of mortar mines, 12 boxes of Kalashnikov ammunition, and 45 rounds for recoilless guns were seized by the armed forces.

Units and companies of the armed forces seized 25 surface-to-surface missiles and four Sakr rockets the day before yesterday as a result of an ambush at the Ali Abad District, Herat Province.

According to another report, yesterday, as a result of an ambush by the personnel of the armed forces in Ghowr Province, a group of extremists including Ma'sum and Gol Ahmad, their ringleaders, who were disrupting the peaceful life of that province, were crushed.

Centers and positions of war-mongering extremists in Paktia Province were yesterday subjected to shattering blows by the armed forces. According to a report by the BIA military section, as a result of these blows a number of persons belonging to the Khales fundamentalist group, including a ringleader, Shah Mahmud, were killed, and one vehicle loaded with ammunition was destroyed.

Report on Mojahedin Offensive in Herat, Paktia

BK2308032291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] Mojahedin forces destroyed eight security posts of the Kabul regime in Chaghcharan area in the central province of Ghowr according to reports from Afghanistan. They attacked these posts with mortars and hand grenades, killing a number of Kabul regime soldiers, and seizing a large quantity of arms and ammuntion. Mojahedin forces shot down a jet bomber in the Paktia provincial district of (Sewtkaram). The aircraft was damaged, but its crew bailed out safely and was captured by the mojahedin.

Meanwhile, mojahedin attacks on Kabul regime positions in Herat Province are continuing. In the recent offensive, a large number of Kabul regime militiamen surrendered to the mojahedin in (Zirgam) District.

Rebel Missiles Hit Kabul 19 Aug; Two Killed

LD2208074391 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 19 Aug 91

[Text] Two Kabul citizens were martyred and 12 wounded today as a result of 13 surface-to-surface missiles fired by the extremists. The BAKHTAR military section reports that the missiles, which were fired from the west, hit residential areas in the 1st, 4th, 10th, and 11th city wards. Two houses were also destroyed.

Today's missiles were of the Sakr type which, contrary to all international norms and treaties, are being supplied to warmongering extremists by Pakistani militarists.

Ministry Condemns Pakistani Premier's Remarks

LD2208063991 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 0630 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] Kabul, 21 Aug (BAKHTAR)—A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan made the following points concerning the recent remarks by Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The prime minister of Pakistan made hostile and provocative remarks about our country on the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Ziaul Haq, former president of that country. Those remarks were made at a time when the Republic of Afghanistan is not sparing any effort to normalize relations with the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and to replace confrontation with economic cooperation between the two countries by puting forward specific proposals. On 72d anniversary of the independence of Afghanistan, esteemed Najibollah, president of Afghanistan, expressed the wish of the Republic of Afghanistan to normalize relations with Pakistan. The Foreign Ministry of the Republic of Afghanistan considers the remarks by Nawaz Sharif to be another example of the clear interference by Pakistan in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan and condemns it. The Republic of Afghanistan wishes Pakistan and Nawaz Sharif personally to respond positively to the peace-seeking voice of Afghanistan and to refrain from such provocative remarks that complicate the situation.

Bangladesh

President, Prime Minister Greet Gorbachev

BK2208160291 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] The acting president, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, has felicitated Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev on his resumption of the office of the presidency of the Soviet Union. In a message, the acting president said his restoration to authority with the overwhelming support of the Soviet people is a development of far-reaching

significance, which the people of Bangladesh have sincerely welcomed. The acting president wished Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev continued success in the cause of the Soviet people.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has warmly felicitated Mr. Gorbachev on his resumption of the office of the president of the Soviet Union. In her message, Begum Khaleda Zia said the coup has failed as a result of the spontaneous and overwhelming support to Mikhail Gorbachev and it is a measure of the trust and confidence he enjoys among his people. Equally, she said, it is a recognition of the far-reaching changes President Gorbachev has brought about internally and in the sphere of foreign relations.

Commentary Views Coup Failure, Gorbachev's Return

BK2208142691 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh External Service in English 1230 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] The return of Mikhail Gorbachev to power in the Soviet Union after a short-lived abortive coup by a group of communist hard-liners has proved that the waves of progress and democracy cannot be turned back, the inexorable march of reforms will continue. The rebellion led by one of President Gorbachev's deputies, Gennadiy Yanayev, was defeated because it was against the popular wishes of the people of the Soviet Union. Even the marshalling of all the tanks on the streets of Moscow and Leningrad failed to cow down the popular upsurge against the coup leaders. Unarmed people in tens of thousands kept vigil throughout the night to prevent the takeover of the parliament building by soldiers loyal to the coup and finally they triumphed in restoring the constitutional government in the Soviet Union.

President Gorbachev's return to the helm of the administration in Moscow has been welcomed throughout the world with a sigh of relief. There was almost unanimous condemnation of the coup in both the developed and the developing world. The United States which with the Soviet Union under Gorbachev's leadership has worked toward the elimination of tension of the cold war era was apparently frustrated by the developments in Moscow earlier this week. So also were the other Western powers which had promised to help the Soviet Union overcome its present economic problems so that the pace of political reforms under perestroyka could be maintained.

Bangladesh which has close ties with the Soviet Union expressed fears that the return of the hardliners in Kremlin would jeopardize the democratic measures initiated by President Gorbachev. The collapse of the coup in Moscow also demonstrates the vital fact concerning democracy and constitutional government. If the democratic and constitutional institutions are strong in a country and if the people are sufficiently aware of their democratic rights and well prepared to fight for them, no amount of military power can dislodge a legally elected authority. Countries which are now engaged in democratization should take lessons from the recent events in Moscow and strengthen their democratic institutions if they want to prevent any unconstitutional and violent takeover. This is particularly relevant for the newly emerging democracies in Eastern Europe and in the developing countries where democratic measures have been introduced of late.

Although the Kremlin coup has been aborted, the event itself may have far-reaching consequences on the developments in the Soviet Union in the coming years. The Soviet empire is now wracked by spreading secessionism. Even as Mr. Gorbachev was restored to power, two Baltic republics of Estonia and Latvia declared their independence from the Soviet Union. Several others, including the Republic of Georgia, are refusing to sign a new union treaty which Mr. Gorbachev has prepared for them and which ensures a considerable degree of autonomy for the republics.

The coup is an indication of trouble within the Soviet military establishment which has been enjoying historically since the Marxist revolution special privileges. These privileges are now endangered because of democratic reforms. Also the Army has been humiliated in several republics, including Soviet Armenia, where more than a dozen soldiers have been held hostage by Armenian nationalists. President Gorbachev will have to attend to the dissensions within the vast Army which has its own administrative and adjustment problems because of the withdrawal of troops from the former socialist countries in Eastern Europe. More pertinently, the Soviet leader will have to speed up his economic reforms so that some benefits can be delivered to the Soviet people before their patience wears out.

Striking Civil Servants Defy Government Threats

BK2208115491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1111 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 22 (AFP)—Striking Bangladeshi civil servants on Thursday ignored appeals from President Shahabuddin Ahmed to return to work and announced they would continue their campaign for higher wages next week.

"Our campaign will continue against the unilateral announcement of pay scales by the authorities," union leader Asaduzzaman said at rally in front of the government secretariat complex, where hundreds of union members converged.

"We will hold a grand rally here next Thursday to announce a tougher action programme as the new pay scale fell far short of our demands," he said.

Asaduzzaman said their action would include a three-hour work stoppage daily from Saturday to Wednesday and another 24-hour strike next Thursday. Friday is the weekly holiday in predominantly Muslim Bangladesh.

Ahmed said the wage offer was decided after considering all sides, and while the government was aware of its workers' plight, there was simply no money available to meet their demands.

"Almost the entire amount of the revenue is spent on defence, education, health and other sectors, including salaries of government employees, and nothing remains as a surplus for the development budget, which depends on foreign aid," he said in a televised address to the nation Wednesday.

The strikers, who rejected the new wage deal soon after it was announced by the authorities late Tuesday, held several rounds of talks with government ministers Wednesday without any results, press reports said.

The government secretariat here, the focus of agitation, and other offices across the country were mostly empty as the 48-hour work stoppage continued into its second day.

Observers here said that to diffuse the crisis, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's five month old government had to find a way to convince the strikers that the coffers were empty.

"It is impossible for the government to consider anything other than the 80 percent given already at this stage... even with further raises the matter will not end there as other unions will then come up with their demands," one official said.

Authorities issued a warning Wednesday that they would be forced to take necessary steps under relevant laws if the employees continued to strike but observers here said the new strike plans announced by the civil servants signalled their willingness to stand up to the government.

The lowest basic wage under the new pay scale would now be 900 taka (25 U.S. dollars) per month and the highest 10,000 taka (278 dollars) per month, effective retroactively from July 1.

Those who would get 900 taka as a basic wage would receive a total of 1,605 taka (45 dollars) with allowances, instead of the minimum 2,400 taka (67 dollars) demanded by the employees.

The new wage increase affect some 1.2 million employees and officials of the government, corporate bodies and semi-autonomous organisations nationwide.

Parties Argue Over Legacy of Founding Leader

BK2308092291 Hong Kong AFP in English 0823 GMT 23 Aug 91

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Aug 23 (AFP)—The ghost of Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman threatens the fragile cohabitation of its two top political parties, prompting analysts to warn Friday that the country was facing uncertainty. "The political marriage between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the Awami League (AL) witnessed earlier this month now seems to be on the rocks ... especially surrounding Rahman," Shamim Ahmed, a political commentator said. The relationship took a nose-dive following the government's failure to screen a special program on the life and works of Rahman on August 15, his 16th death anniversary, the commentator said. Rahman, who led Bangladesh to its independence from Pakistan in 1971, was killed in a military coup along with several members of his family on August 15, 1975. Well before the anniversary, the party leadership appealed to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to ensure screening of the television program, but the state-run television dropped it without giving any reason. Rahman's daughter and AL chief Sheikh Hasina Wajed charged that the media were projecting "untrue and misleading stories about the country's liberation struggle (in 1971) with the evil motive to confuse the people." She demanded that television and radio be made autonomous and credible in line with an agreement signed by the three major political alliances, including BNP and AL, during last year's campaign that led to the ouster of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad. TV sources said the prime minister's office asked them to drop the program and instead to give "reasonable" news coverage of the day. Angry AL demonstrators went on the rampage, sparking fears of serious clashes with BNP rivals. BNP sources said liberals did not object, but some hardliners had stressed during a meeting with Zia that they should yield to AL's pressure. Wajed, who is the leader of the opposition in parliament, was upset further when Zia did not honour her invitation to attend prayers for Rahman on August 15. An aide of the prime minister said, "Madam was attending an important party meeting on the September 11 by-election at that time, otherwise she would have gone ... there is no politics here." Analysts said the event put paid to the brief honeymoon between the two women witnessed in parliament August 7 after the passage of a bill changing Bangladesh's current presidential form of government to a parliamentary type. Wajed, whose AL promised the change in its election manifesto, posed for photographers with Zia and exchanged pleasantries, something they had not done since their momentary unity in 1987 during the anti-Ershad campaign. The two parties are also at loggerheads over the repeal of the 1975 indemnity ordinance which constitutionally prohibits the trial of Rahman's killers, political observers said. Wajed has submitted a bill to parliament urging the repeal of the ordinance to end politics of "coup and intrigue." The AL has accused the BNP of delaying the bill's scrutiny by a parliamentary committee. "Zia has to come to consensus with Wajed and vice versa if they want to continue the current democratic process and prevent the country from heading towards uncertainty," one analyst warned. "The friendship of convenience is fast turning into a quarrelsome enmity," cautioned the weekly Dhaka COURIER in its latest edition. However, some observers believed that AL might delay the repeal because it had to settle party matters following the release from jail of a senior member, Kader Siddiqui, who wants to occupy a top party position.

India

Rao Sends Messages to Gorbachev, Yeltsin

BK2208125691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] India has expressed satisfaction and relief at the safe return to Moscow of President Gorbachev and normalcy being restored throughout the Soviet Union. In a message to Mr. Gorbachev, the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, said that India has always shown a keen interest in the success of perestroyka and the strengthening of the Soviet Union as a world power. Mr. Narasimha Rao said the final denouncement has demonstrated the maturity of the Soviet people and triumph of their will.

In a separate message to the president of the Russian republic, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, Mr. Narasimha Rao commended his significant role in the defense of constitutional principles and democracy in the Soviet Union.

Members in the Lok Sabha today hailed the defeat of the undemocratic coup in the Soviet Union and greeted the people in their hour of triumph and commitment to democracy under the leadership of President Gorbachev.

Opposition Attacks Government Over USSR Coup

BK2308091091 Hong Kong AFP in English 0758 GMT 23 Aug 91

[By Anil Penna]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug 23 (AFP)—India is trying to live down its diplomatic embarrassment over its failure to stand by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and his reformist charter in his hour of trial. As another foreign policy debate opened, critics slammed the government for a perceived display of opportunism during the Kremlin crisis which opposition MP George Fernandes said had shamed the people of India. "Our heads hang in shame before the people of the Soviet Union," Fernandes said, calling it India's duty to have sided with Gorbachev when hardliners mounted the ill-fated effort to overthrow the reformist Soviet president. India tried clumsily not to take a stand during the crisis, saying its close and time-tested relations with the Soviet Union, bound by a 1971 friendship treaty renewed August 9, would not be affected by a leadership change. Individuals were not paramount, interests were, Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro had said Monday in India's first reaction. Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said the attempted coup was a warning to reformers to proceed with caution, a comment that to his critics sounded like disapproval of Gorbachev's reforms, which India has always praised. Rao, a former foreign minister, made no attempt to condemn the coup, and his two-month-old government was content with statements that it was watching the situation unfold. He made belated amends Thursday, hailing Gorbachev's reinstallation as Soviet president as a matter of "great satisfaction." "The final denouement has demonstrated the maturity of the people of the Soviet Union and the essential validity and strength of the spirit of perestroyka and glasnot initiated by you," he said in a message to Gorbachev. But India's initial failure to grasp the course of events in the Kremlin and back Gorbachev still rankled critics, who saw it as the second major failure of New Delhi's diplomacy following the gulf crisis. M.L. Sondhi of the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party (Indian People's Party) said India's stand gave the impression that the government endorsed "short-term opportunism." His colleague Jaswant Singh said India's response had been one of "blinkered timidity and ineptitude," and Rao's statement cautioning reformers struck several raw nerves. New Delhi's foreign policy had come under question during the Gulf war, when it was seen to have tilted towards Iraq, and the reaction to Soviet events was another case of backing the "wrong horse," THE ECONOMIC TIMES said. In an editorial Friday, the respected daily interpreted the issue in broader contours, seeing in the government's stand a "desperate hope ... of a return to a bipolar world and the availability once again of a superpower crutch." It saw the response to the Soviet events as a suggestion of an "ingrained anti-americanism." "In any case, anyone could have told the government that, whichever way the events in that country went, the Soviet Union was going to be far too preoccupied with its internal problems to be able to play an effective international role as a counterpoise to the United States," THE TIMES said. India has prided itself as the Soviet Union's preeminent Asian ally and hosted Gorbachev in 1986 on one of his first visits to the subcontinent as president. It has hailed perestroyka (economic restructuring) and glasnost (openness) and Gorbachev's contribution to disarmament and the end of the cold war, giving him the Indira Gandhi Peace Prize in 1988. Bilateral relations in more recent months took a backseat because of turmoil both in India and the Soviet Union, New Delhi's largest arms supplier and its second largest trading partner behind the United States. But each country reaffirmed in effusive terms the importance of the relationship by extending for 20 years the 1971 friendship treaty. "We have a very close and time-tested relationship with the Soviet Union, based on geopolitical imperatives," Minister of State for External Affairs Faleiro told AFP Friday, citing the treaty's renewal. He again said personalities were not important in inter-state relations, and refused comment on Rao's controversial remarks on reforms or on criticism of India's foreign policy, which the INDIAN EXPRESS said needed overhauling. The Foreign Ministry, said the daily, was conducting itself on a definition of nonalignment that failed to distinguish between "right and wrong, between justice and injustice."

Reaction to Gorbachev Reinstatement Reported

Soviet Faith in Democracy Hailed

BK2308092391 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] The Lok Sabha today gave a big ovation to the people and parliament of USSR for the triumph of democracy and

wished them all the glory, peace, and prosperity. Amid thumping of desks, the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, observed that the members of all parties are one in complimenting the people and parliament of the Soviet Union for their faith in the principles of democracy.

Earlier in a suo moto statement, the external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, conveyed India's best wishes to President Gorbachev and to the friendly people of the Soviet Union for their success in the challenging tasks that lie ahead for them.

Parties Welcome Gorbachev Return

BK2208161091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Several political parties have hailed the return of Mikhail Gorbachev to power in the Soviet Union. The Congress-I spokesman, Professor C.P. Thakur, said that this development has been possible because of the changes brought about by perestroyka and glasnost.

The Bharatiya Janata Party president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, in a statement said that democracy has won a resounding victory. He hoped that leaders and people of the Soviet Union will continue to pursue with renewed vigor and determination the reforms initiated by President Gorbachev.

The Janata Dal parliamentary party executives have expressed happiness at the turn of events.

The CPI [Communist Party of India] has welcomed the restoration of power to Mr. Gorbachev. In a statement in New Delhi, the party expressed the hope that Mr. Gorbachev will now take steps to correct the imbalances which emerged during the implementation of perestroyka.

Commentary on Soviet Union Position After Crisis

BK2308052091 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Commentary by S. Prasanna Rajan of THE TIMES OF INDIA]

[Text] The sudden collapse of the Stalinist coup in the Soviet Union proved that the Gorbachovean legacy was irreversible. With the reemerged ghost of Joseph Stalin once again consigned with the dark recesses of history, the Soviet Union after two days of the frightening show of tanks and truncheons is back to a hazy normalcy, that is, after two days of confinement in a gulag of sorts. Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev is back in the chair.

First of all, it means that the party is no more invincible. What happened in Berlin, Budapest in 1989? The triumph of the people over the tyranny of the party was made possible by the historical nod from the heretic in the Kremlin. But, for the last six years, Mr. Gorbachev was engaged in a thankless mission of demolishing a stagnating empire and he could not afford to repeat the same nod to the disenchanted nationalist forces in Soviet Republics. If he had done so, that could have been the beginning of a social Chernobyl. Furthermore, he was caught between two extreme groups—the Stalinists, who in their generalism decried Mr. Gorbachev's stress on the market economy, his desire to coexist with the democratic West; and the radical reformers who could not tolerate the slow pace of perestroyka. In other words, he was surrounded by enemies loud and silent. But the Stalinists struck back at a time when Mr. Gorbachev was sliding more and more into the camp of reformers, most of them being his one time proteges. Remember his tacit support to Mr. Shevardnadze's movement for democratic reforms and his daring announcement in the recent party plenum that the socialist model had proved bankrupt? But the coup happened in a different Soviet Union. The streets erupted and Mr. Boris Yeltsin, the most visible embodiment of the virtues of the Gorbachev era, (?moved) after his historical role.

The return of Mr. Gorbachev was truly revolutionary. It never happened before in the Communist history of crushed (? word indistinct). Now, the humiliated plotters stand naked in shame. One of them even committed suicide. Is it the end? For Mr. Gorbachev, will it be all roses again on his path? Doubtful. He can no more ignore the new savior Mr. Boris Yeltsin. One hopes Mr. Yeltsin won't use his new-found glory as a bargaining chip with Mr. Gorbachev, for Mr. Yeltsin can never be the alternative. Still the alternative to Mr. Gorbachev is Mr. Gorbachev himself. The purge of the plotters is on. The Soviet leader has to get rid of all those hawks still entrenched in the security, the military industrial complex, and the still alive party. And he has to pay more attention to the genuine nationalist aspirations of the republics. Perhaps, the new Union treaty could be the beginning in that respect.

The salvation of the Soviet Union lies in a center-left coalition. The left represented by people like Mr. Shevardnadze and Mr. Yeltsin has shown its indispensability. That will please the well wishers in the West too. Such a formidable combination cannot be easily bullied.

Embassies' Security Slated for Strengthening

BK2208150691 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, held a meeting in New Delhi today with top officials of his ministry and discussed steps to strengthen the security arrangements for Indian missions abroad. A spokesman of the ministry told newsmen that special security measures will be taken at those missions which are exposed to threats from extremist organizations.

The spokesman said India's Ambassador to Romania Mr. J.F. Ribeiro, who sustained a serious hip injury in Bucharest as a result of an assailant's attack on Tuesday, is out of danger. Mr. Ribeiro underwent a three-hour surgery. He is now able to talk but is being kept under observation in the intensive care unit.

Commentary on State of Relations With Pakistan

BK2208113291 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Commentary by S.K. Singh, former foreign secretary: "India-Pakistan Secretary-Level Talks"]

[Text] India's long-term vision of relations with Pakistan has always been and must always remain one of fraternal neighborly relations that are close and mutually supportive. In line with this, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has appreciated the gesture of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in sending his special envoy to New Delhi. Foreign Minister Solanki, too, assured the Pakistan foreign secretary that India's response to any substantive move by them would be positive and constructive.

However, long experience has taught us, in respect of our relations with Pakistan, to be cautious, realistic, and vigilant. Pakistan is our most important and major neighbor and deserves our respectful attention, but without closing our eyes and ears. We have been witness to their frenzied and successful effort at Istanbul recently during the Islamic foreign ministers conference to secure a one-sided resolution on Kashmir; not that such resolutions cause too many ripples. In the coming few weeks, we are being advised by the Pakistani media, they propose making similar efforts during the nonaligned foreign ministers meetings in Accra, the UN General Assembly's next session in New York, and the Commonwealth summit in Harare in October. India will need to be watchful. Our responses in these matters must always be balanced and measured, never frenzied or passionate.

In the nuclear field, having pursued full (?tilt) a weapon-oriented program for several years, this time the Pressler amendment seems to have caught up with them and the economic and military assistance from the USA to Pakistan stands suspended. Pakistan's efforts in Washington D.C., especially on the Hill, are somehow to deflect all this by talking of India's disinclination to sign the nonproliferation treaty.

While bilateral visits like this one must always be encouraged and apprciated, there are two sets of realities on the ground which must provide India with a clear notion of the direction our relations are taking in the short run. First, the level of money, weapons, training, and motivational impetus which Pakistan's intelligence military establishment is providing to the militants, terrorists, and secessionists in our Punjab and the Kashmir Valley. Secondly, the current internal political compulsions in Pakistan which erode the capability of their leadership to move toward normal, healthy, good-neighborly relations with India.

We need also to examine and analyze what the leaders of Pakistan are currently telling their own people. General Aslam Beg, who recently retired as the chief of army staff, hinted more than once during the last several weeks that it was quite possible that there would be a war with India. And now, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, too, has stated that Kashmir has the potential to cause another war between India and Pakistan. Their leader of opposition, Benazir Bhutto, has been blaming the Nawaz Sharif government for bringing war clouds closer to their borders.

The gun and narcotics culture seems to have overtaken the youth of Pakistan. This is naturally causing anguish to the leaders of that country. They forthrightly blame their own political people for joining with dacoits [robbers] and criminals in Sindh for promoting violence and lawlessness. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was forced to cancel at the last minute his visit to Japan due to resurgence of serious violence in the Punjab. The NWFP [North-West Frontier Province] too has seen considerable turmoil in recent months. The MQM's [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] trouble with Pakistan People's Party in the urban centers of Sindh has taken a toll. The troubles in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir resulted in the house arrest and later dismissal of Prime Minister Rathore. This was followed by the president of the POK [Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir] assuming the prime minister's office and Mr. Rathore's predecessor as prime minister, Sardar Sikander Hayat, being made the president. All very strange, quite startling. Let India take every possible step to move this relationship amity [word indistinct]. But let us make it clear that messages and expressions generally in praise of friendship and cooperation no longer persuade or satisfy us. Asserting in very general and vague terms the desire to have friendly relations with us will no longer beguile us. We need concrete steps and action by Pakistan to show that they truly desire to normalize relations with us.

Troops Kill 12 Bangladeshis in Punjab

BK2208165091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1401 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Amritsar, India, Aug 22 (AFP)—Indian border guards shot dead 12 people believed to be Bangladeshis when they illegally entered Punjab across the Indo-Pakistan border of the northern frontier state, officials said Thursday.

Eight of them died in a hail of bullets after paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) troopers fired guns in the northern state's frontier Khalna region Wednesday night when the group entered India, a BSF spokesman said here.

He said the eight belonged to a group of 20 Bangladeshis "pushed" into India across barbed wire fences, adding that the remaining 12 ran away during the shooting.

Four others died while trying to cross the border three kilometres (less than two miles) from the site of the first shootout, the spokesman said, adding that the BSF men were under orders to kill any border-crossers in the sector. None of the 12 killed was armed, the BSF spokesman said.

It was unknown why Bangladeshis were trying to enter India, but officials said Pakistani troopers were giving cover fire when the two groups broke through the fencing installed two years ago to prevent illegal border crossings.

New Delhi accuses Islamabad of inviting Sikh separatists from Punjab to secret camps across the border in Pakistan with offers of weapons and guerrilla warfare training. Pakistan, which extends moral support to the Sikh militants' homeland campaign in Punjab, rejects the charges.

2,500 Sikhs, 10,000 Kashmiris Trained by Pakistan

BK2208145491 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] An estimated 2,500 Sikh militants and 10,000 Kashmiri youths have been trained by Pakistan in the last four to five years. About 200 Sikh extremists and 8,000 Kashmiri youths are reported to have returned to India after training during last year alone. This information was given by the minister of state for home, Mr. M.M. Jacob, in a written reply in the Lok Sabha today.

Police Chief's Brother Kidnapped in Punjab

BK2308091991 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Text] In Punjab, militants have kidnapped the brother of the district police chief of Sangrur. The victim, Mukhtiar Singh, was kidnapped from his house in Village Nihake in Makhu area of Ferozepore District late last night.

Meanwhile, two militants have been killed in separate cases of intergang rivalry in Patiala and Ludhiana districts. The security forces have arrested seven militants from different parts of the state.

Iran

Friday Sermons Warn Against Peace Conference

LD2308103491 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Ayatollah Emami-Kashani condemned the so-called peace conference concept being developed by the United States and called on Muslims to oppose it in today's Friday prayers sermons in Tehran. Tehran's interim Friday imam made it clear that the United States is intent on safeguarding its interests and that of Israel, and that Islamic nations must beware of being deceived by them. He suggested the consolidation of U.S. power in the region and weakening of Islamic movements, especially the Palestinian intifadah, as some of the other U.S. objectives in convening the Arab and Israel compromise conference.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani continued the prayer sermons by referring to the anniversary of the martyrdom of the two worthy Islamic martyrs, Rafa'i and Bahonar, the president and prime minister, talked about Islamic Republic's officials to strive toward further satisfaction of the people. He offered the methods and records of martyr Raja'i and martyr Bahonar as admirable models. He praised the officials and called for further attention to be paid to people.

Ayatollah Emami-Kashani also stressed the capability of the Islamic government to regulate economic affairs, noting that the objective of the Islamic government is to achieve social justice. [passage omitted]

President Reiterates Support for Intifadah

LD2208202691 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Mr. Fathi Shafaqi, leader of the Palestine Islamic Jihad Movement, and members of the movement's Central Council this morning. During the meeting the president praised the resistance and perseverance of the Muslim people of Palestine in confronting the occupying Jerusalem regime. He said: The justice-seeking struggles of the innocent and Muslim people of Palestine and the continuation of the intifadah will result in the freeing of the sacred land of Palestine and annihilation of the usurping Israel because the fate of Palestine is connected to the fate of the one billion Muslims of the world.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani rejected the so-called Middle East peace plan and added: The tyrannized people of Palestine will not accept the legitimacy of the usurping Israeli Government and Israel will not withdraw by such plans from the occupied territories of Palestine, the Golan, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank.

The president stressed Iran's full and all-around support for the Islamic movement of the people of Palestine, and the intifadah and its strengthening.

At the beginning of the meeting the leader of the Palestine Islamic Jihad movement expressed appreciation for our country's decisive stance in supporting the Palestine issue. He said: Islamic Iran has always been beside the Palestinian people and supported them. Definitely the tricks [tarfand] of the world arrogance and its lackeys cannot harm the will of the Muslim and innocent people of Palestine and the Islamic world. Referring to the continuing struggles of the people of Palestine against the occupying Jerusalem regime, he said: Our political position is that we consider the legitimacy of Israel to be completely void and we hope that other Palestinian groups, by adopting such a stance, will also struggle against the occupiers of Holy Jerusalem side by side with the Palestinian people.

President Comments on Failed Soviet Coup

LD2208191191 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in English 1445 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] In a meeting with a group of Iranian medical students, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani called for more attention to be paid to intellectual and scientific issues at the country's academic centers.

Later at the meeting, the president spoke on the Soviet Marxists' attempt to take control of their country, saying that millions of people denied them support because the Marxist regime in the Soviet Union never paid any attention to humanitarian or intellectual issues.

Elsewhere President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said the flourishing of Iranian students' aptitudes would guarantee the country's independence and the revolution's continuation. The president added that, within the next few years, 1 million students will be studying at Iranian universities and this will provide the country's needed manpower.

SAIRI Warning on Southern Iraq Crackdown

LD2208202191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] issued a warning against the recent crackdown by the Ba'thist regime on the south of that country. The spokesman of the SAIRI referred to the Iraqi Ba'this regime's preparations to attack the southern marshlands of that country and called on international circles, particularly the United Nations, to investigate the matter as soon as possible.

Khamene'i Denounces U.S. While in Khuzestan

LD2208105191 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Excerpts] On the second day of his tour of Khuzestan, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i went to remote tribal areas and villages. In a gathering of tribesmen and villagers, he referred to the oppression of the brave tribesmen and villagers in the unjust period of monarchy, and called for their efforts and cooperation in the construction period. [passage omitted]

The leader of the Islamic revolution first went to the village of Kakasharaf where, in a speech, he said: We cannot bear to see people with so much sincerity and faith in deprivation. [passage omitted]

Stressing that today the enemies of the revolution are pained about the motivation of the Iranian nation, he said: America and Eastern and Western powers are angered, and their hostility and lies against us multiply whenever there is any political or economic progress. [passage omitted]

Forces Set Reed Fields Afire; Explosions Heard

LD2208111291 Tehran IRNA in English 0952 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Aug. 22, IRNA—Iraqi forces set afire reed fields in 'Hawr' [marshes] region, southern Iraq, Thursday to halt future assaults by its opponents who used the area as a shield for their operations.

The smoke caused by the fire in the reed fields, was visible from Hoveyzeh, in southwestern Iran, and covered parts of the skies of the city.

So far, Iraq's opponents have launched successful attacks against the government troops by using the reed fields and have inflicted heavy blows on them.

Meanwhile, reports from Khorramshahr, southern Iran, said that several explosions in southern Iraq were heard on Wednesday night and Thursday morning.

The same reports added that the explosions, mainly heard from al-Tannumah in southern Iraq, were possibly caused as a result of a confrontation between the opposition and Iraqi troops.

Official Denies Presence of Kurdish Bases

LD2308075491 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 20 Aug 91

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 20, IRNA—An informed source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry today strongly refuted recent remarks of the chief of the Turkish Army Command that opposition Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) has bases in Iran.

"It is a matter of regret that certain Turkish officials by making such remarks, try to give external dimensions to their internal problems, and to derail the public opinion from the true path," said the source here.

Such "irresponsible remarks" are against the tendencies of the two neighbouring governments and nations for the deepening of their historical ties and good neighbourly relations, the source added.

Blast at Ammunition Depot in Orumiyeh Reported

NC2208100091 (Clandestine) Voice of Iranian Kordestan in Persian 1730 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Text] According to a report from the party committee in northern Kordestan, at 2200 on 11 August a strong explosion was heard at the ammunition depot of Orumiyeh's 64th army garrison. The explosion was so strong that it shook the entire city. Many people panicked and left their houses in order to find out what had happened. The explosions continued until 0200.

The explosion at the ammunition depot may be part of the series of explosions that have been taking place in the bazaars and public buildings in big cities such as Tehran, Rasht, Ahvaz, and other cities. No reports are avaible on casulaties or on the damage inflicted on the garrison. According to a report that we have received, however, the reactionary clerical regime has arrested a number of officers and NCO's in relation with the incident. There has been no information on their fate.

Paper Views Turkey's Role in Regional Security

NC2208180691 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 17 Aug 91 p 8

[M. Mollahzadeh commentary: "Turkey's Position in the Region's Security"]

[Text] The Turkish Armed Forces' attack on the guerrilla bases of the Workers Party of Kurdistan in northern Iraq generated a good deal of controversy, which needs to be examined from the point of view of respect for a country's sovereignty.

Turkish Foreign Minister Mesut Yilmaz claimed that his country had an indisputable right to enter Iraqi territory to crush the separatist Turkish Kurds there, but can such claims have any validity?

Iraq is certainly in a vulnerable position for various reasons, including its weak leadership, and is unable to defend its territorial integrity. Does this, however, provide a license for one country to ignore internationally recognized boundaries? The general consensus is that it must certainly does not. It is because of actions like this that most experts on regional issues see Turkey's role in future security arrangements in the Middle East from the perspective of the joint designs of Turkey, the United States, and Europe.

The key question here is where Turkey stands on Middle East security, and the apparent answer is that its position is geared more toward the strategic interests of Europe and the United States than its own national interests.

There are many ways of looking at security in this sensitive part of the world. The United States and its European allies interpret security in the Middle East as synonymous with Israel's security, something that cannot be guaranteed without constantly protecting and strengthening the balance of power in its favor and simultaneously undermining the political, military, and economic position of the Arab world.

What can be in Turkey's interests in such a security setup? Turkey is an Islamic country, and so its fate is inevitably linked to that of the Arab and Islamic world. The Muslim people of Turkey cannot be concerned about Israel's security; their concern is for the security of the Islamic nations which are a threat to Israel. How can the Turkish Government possibly resolve the contradiction between its official policy and the wishes of its Muslim people? This is the dilemma facing Mr. Turgut Ozal's government.

The fact that the Turkish Government is moving toward early elections indicates that a solution to this dilemma that suits the government has not been found. It is clear that in the long run, the Turkish Government cannot view the problems of the region and the world from an angle different from that of the Muslim Turkish nation. Differences will only increase with time, and the government will ultimately be forced to make a choice.

The Turkish Government's eagerness to join the EC continues to encounter European indifference. The European countries apparently do not want to be joined by a Muslim country, despite Turkey's efforts to annihilate its Islamic culture and traditions in its efforts to merge with the West.

The situation is clear. The Turkish Muslim nation and the Turkish Government have taken different paths. The nation is seeking its destiny in its Islamic nature, while the leadership sees benefits in Westernization and transformation into a laic system more to the West's liking. Time will show which is the stronger.

Our main focus here, however, is Turkey's role in Middle East security, particularly in light of the deployment of the so-called Poised Hammer force of the United States and its allies in the south of the country. Turkey's symbolic [preceding word in English] presence in this force has highlighted the inherent contradiction in its policy on the force's main objective of protecting the Iraqi Kurds against Saddam's army. It is unclear how the Turkish Government will be able to maintain the necessary balance between the objectives of the poised hammer force and its own security interests as regards the issue of the Kurds.

Turkey has been dragged into the magnetic field of the West's strategic interests to the extent that it is not very far from officially recognizing the Zionist regime. It is clear that by revolving in an orbit opposed to its own national interests, Turkey will brought face to face with serious contradictions at home which cannot be solved even with early elections.

There is no doubt that the Kurdish issue is a serious security problem for Turkey as regards its territorial integrity. It is however, one it shares with Iraq and other neighboring countries. This is a deeply rooted historical problem which requires carefully coordinated solutions, not one that can be solved by ignoring international borders. If Ankara falsely believes it has the right to embark on cross-border operations to crush its opponents, it will ensnare itself in a trap and expose the country to serious dangers in the future.

Geography has made the Middle East a vulnerable political unit, where political boundaries do not conform to cultural boundaries and where a threat to the security of one country can become a threat to the security of all. Political wisdom dictates, therefore, that closer attention should be paid to national security than to the security of the entire region.

One country alone cannot take on all the region's security problems, even with foreign support. If the United States and Europe allow any of these countries to participate in regional security arrangements, they will not give it any special privileges in return and will only use it as a means to further their own interests with a minimum of cost and effort on their part.

Experience has shown that these countries are left alone to grapple with their own internal problems. Therefore, it can be said that if any position can been envisaged for Turkey in regional security arrangements, it is one alongside the Muslim nations of the region and not one of assuming the role of an agent in implementing U.S. policies. Will Ankara understand this reality? There can be no doubt that Turkey's future internal stability depends on how this question is answered.

Paper Fears Soviet Retreat on Mideast Policy

NC2208152491 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Retreat on Foreign Policy Will Not Gain Moscow Points"]

[Text] The Soviet ambassador in Iran, Vladimir Gudev visited with the Iranian deputy foreign minister for Europe and U.S. in Tehran on Monday, and delivered to him President Gorbachev's message for the Iranian President, Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In the message President Gorbachev briefed the Iranian president on negotiations carried out at the Moscow summit meeting, and emphasized the significance the Soviet Government attaches to the expansion of ties between Iran and the Soviet Union. Tehran is on the whole quite satisfied with this good-neighborly gesture and the information on the meeting between the leaders of the two superpowers. Bilateral relations between Iran and the Soviet Union have been quite good in the past two years.

From the viewpoint in Tehran the only worrying problem is the stance Moscow has been adopting on the Middle East issues in the past months. The Soviet Union has been the supporter of the rightful demands of the Palestinian people in international scenes for long years. But after the recent developments in that country and the emergence of serious economic difficulties, the Soviet Union has been pursuing a rather weak foreign policy line, and the most glaring instance of that weakness was manifested during the Persian Gulf crisis.

But the Soviet Union still possesses great resources which will make it possible for that country to appear as a great power on the world scene.

It would be a grave historical mistake for Moscow to tie in its economic difficulties with foreign policy problems, and in particular with the stances it adopts on the Middle East issues. Retreating from the fair and rightful positions on international issues, such as giving support to the just demands of the Palestinians, could solve none of the Soviet Union's economic woes.

History has proven that, as far as the rival powers are concerned, this type of retreat can never be pushed back far enough. In other words any single step backward will only embolden the rival and provide room for his advance.

The Soviet Union will be a critical test in the coming months if the Middle East peace conference is convened. In the past two years the Soviet Union opened its borders to thousands of Jews emigrating to Israel, without giving adequate consideration to the consequences of the action. And naturally the arrival of the new immigrants added to the already complicated problems of the region.

Conversely, the opposing party has conceded no advantage in return for the Soviet Uinion's retreat, and considers it only as the inevitable result of Moscow's weakened position. And no doubt any further withdrawal on the part of Moscow will be interpreted as greater evidences of weakness and will bear no positive result.

Reaction to Hostage Release Efforts Noted

NC2208152391 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Aug 91 pp 1, 15

[Unattributed report: "Iran's Bid To Release Hostages Appreciated, More To Be Freed"]

[Text] Tehran—Humanitarian aspects on Iranian efforts for the release of all hostages irrespective of their nationality has brought all-around appreciation and it is expected that these noble efforts will yield more fruits in days to come.

According to a report dispatched to us by our reporter from Beirut there are a few more hostages both from among Lebanese and Palestinians and they along with Westerners who may go to their homes soon and so will the Lebanese 'Alim who was kidnapped by the Zionist regime in 1987. [sentence as published]

But our reporter in telephonic talks warned that these speculations can turn out to be true only if there are no adverse activities by the Zionist regime and the United States against the Musl ims specially in occupied Palestine.

The Iranian efforts for the release of the Western hostages have already brought fruits and three Western hostages were released from captivity including one from Britain, one from France and one from the United States.

British Prime Minister John Major's quick recognition of the Iranian efforts was appreciated in Iran. Major immediately thanked humanitarian efforts on the release of John McCarthy who was released on Thursday after 5 years of captivity.

McCarthy, as he promised his captors, handed over a written message to UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Sunday. Within an hour the captors released an American hostage, Edward Tracy.

Earlier efforts were made to block further release of hostages, certain group captured a Frenchman, Jerome Leyraud. [sentence as published] But timely efforts and an appeal from Iran resulted in release of the Frenchman.

There were hard feelings in Iran consequent to comments made by U.S. President George Bush who in a first response to the release of McCarthy arrogantly said...it (the release of the American [as published] hostage) should not be considered a goodwill gesture and one should not expect in return.... However Bush's comments were later modified and he finally thanked those responsible for the release. "In fact he forgot that Iranian policy is crystal clear and forgot too that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani has repeatedly made it clear that Iranian efforts for the release of all hostages are based purely on humanitarian grounds without prior conditions," one observer here told the TEHRAN TIMES.

He said that the only condition attached by Iran was, is and will be that all hostages including those from Iran, Lebanon and Palestine should also be included in these efforts and there should be no room for double standards.

In fact Iran was the first country to become a victim to the hostage-taking menace. The captors have shown no inclination to release these innocent people or say if these people, who were also human beings and were as much important to their families as McCarthy or Tracy, are alive or not.

"Well I know they (the captors of the Iranian hostages) say there are no more alive, but as Mr. Rafsanjani asked them they should at least show their graves or their belongings ... or anything at all to satisfy the relatives of these Iranian hostages," the observer said in an answer to a question.

"No," he said in an answer to another question, "the process of the hostage release will continue and this file will be closed as all sides have showed their intention to end this game which is certainly a good sign."

All believe here and elsewhere that the efforts going on are a sensitive issue and quiet diplomacy is a must and no provocative statements should be made, especially coming from Washington which seems to consider only its own people to be human beings and not others.

In this respect the efforts UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar will also be recorded as a noble deed. John Major's letter to the Israeli leader is also to be appreciated. These moves will definitely help in the Iranian bid to close the hostage file forever.

According to the report dispatched by our correspondent from Beirut, Israel is due to release a number of Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims including Shaykh 'Abd al-Karim 'Ubayd during the weekend.

Our reporter also hinted that one or two more Western hostages may be freed as a next step. Our reporter who collected his information believes that this process can continue only if no unforeseen and unfortunate steps are taken by the United States and the Zionist regime until the very last person in captivity joins his family.

'Pause' in Release of Western Hostages Urged

NC2208203791 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Aug 91 p 10

[Unattributed commentary: "Israel's Obstructionism in the Release of the Hostages"]

[Text] The Zionist regime's obstructionism over the release of Lebanese and Palestinian hostages gives the best proof of the real supporters of terrorism. Although the Muslim forces in Lebanon released two Western hostages as a goodwill gesture, the Zionists, who owe their continued existence to the umbrella of Western support, have given no positive signs. They continue to look for pretexts that will allow them to torture their Lebanese and Palestinian hostages.

This behavior by the Zionists follows many years in which the powers of world arrogance distorted facts and depicted the Muslims as the hostage-takers. Even now, these forces are not exerting any pressure on the despotic Zionists to make them abandon their intransigence and take steps to release the hostages.

Although seeming very pleased about the release of John McCarthy, the British Government has taken no practical or effective steps to secure the release of those hostages in the hands of Israel and its lackeys.

Meanwhile, the United States, which proclaims itself as the champion of the hostages' cause and professes to be greatly concerned about them—in a Western way, of course—contents itself with mere propaganda about humanitarian actions by Lebanese Muslim groups and does nothing to persuade the Zionists to make similar moves.

This approach, which is contrary to all internationally accepted norms, proves that the West and its lackeys do not understand the meaning of humanitarian measures. They only understand the language of force and retaliation.

The Muslims have at various stages acted unilaterally to release some hostages, but this has always met with indifference from the other side. This provides convincing evidence that there should be a pause in the unilateral release of the hostages until a favorable pledge is officially received from the enemy, so that these concessions are not given to no purpose.

Israel and its agents, not the Muslims, started the hostage-taking. One should, perhaps, have been more cautious when it came to deciding to retaliate with an eye for an eye.

The Westerners and the Zionist regime are complacent today, giving no concessions and offering only empty thanks, devoid of substance. They are stripping the Lebanese Muslims of their levers of pressure and are imposing their conditions on the Palestinian and Lebanese nations. These circumstances require that we act with the greatest caution and vigilance before taking any action. There should be no haste to release the hostages if no reciprocal concessions are received.

Despite the fact that the Muslims are the real opponents of hostage-taking and the ones who have suffered most from it, one should not forget that the Islamic forces took their hostages to obtain the release of Muslim ones. The release of the former without the latter will only inflict greater damage on these forces. If the Muslim forces are to derive any benefit from their action, they must assess the consequences of unilateral moves at this sensitive stage and act on the basis of a carefully considered program.

The Zionist regime has set conditions for releasing its hostages and has resorted to propaganda in a bid to stall for time, despite the fact that holds far more hostages. Had it wished to display the slightest sign of goodwill, it

could have released at least some of its hostages in response to the humanitarian gesture of the Muslim forces.

This obduracy on Israel's part and the absence of the necessary pressure on the Zionist regime on the West's casts doubt on the the effectiveness of such unilateral action. If benefits are to be gained, greater caution must be exercised and all levers used to force the enemy to release its hostages.

President Stresses Lebanon's 'Importance'

LD1808153791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 18 Aug 91

[Text] President HashemiRafsanjani received Mr. Homayun 'Alizadeh, the new charge d'affaires of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] to Lebanon, this morning. In the course of this meeting the president, while stressing the importance of Lebanon and its particular place in the IRI, announced his full support for that country's oppressed people and their suffering in the face of various tragedies and difficulties which have threatened that country and its unity and territorial integrity up to now. The president also issued the necessary instructions in this connection.

Khomeyni Meets Lebanese Hizballah Members

NC2108074791 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 21 Aug 91

[Excerpt] Members of Lebanese Hizballah movement met Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at the mausoleum of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, and reported on the latest developments in Lebanon.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni condemned any type of compromise between Arabs and the Zionist regime, saying: We are hopeful that the Lebanese Hizballah members and all Muslim revolutionaries will perform their religious, political, and social obligations to combat the usurpist Jerusalem regime without the slightest weakness or hesitation.

Ahmad Khomeyni added: The convocation of a Middle East conference between Arabs and the Zionist regime is an act of treason against the Islamic and revolutionary aspirations of the people of the region.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni also said: The ultimate objective of the new world order is the annihilation of the Islamic Revolution. We do not consider the Islamic Revolution of Iran to be separate from the Lebanese Islamic movement and we see you as selfless soldiers in the frontline of the serious struggle against arrogance, for the perpetuation of the path of the Imam. We support the Islamic movement of the Muslims of Lebanon and Palestine. [passage omitted]

Editorial Views Relations With Azerbaijan

NC2208151691 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 18 Aug 91 p 2

[Editorial: "Mutalibov in Tehran]

[Text] The president of the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Ayaz Mutalibov, arrived in Tehran on Friday, and was received at Mehrabad Airport by the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

The southern republics of the Soviet Union, inhabited by Muslim populations, have long and close ethnic and religious relationships with Iran, and among them the Republic of Azerbaijan is distinguished from the rest for two reasons.

The first factor relates to the common ethnic source of the peoples of Soviet Azerbaijan and the province of Azerbaijan in northern Iran. The common racial background has also provided many similar historical experiences.

During the eventful months of last year, Iran sympathized with the people of Azerbaijan against the central Soviet Government.

The second consideration relates to the fact that the Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan has the greatest number of Shiite Muslims—as compared with the other Muslim republics in the Soviet Union—and this specific religious affinity has created many spiritual connections between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Iran. Religious rites held in the lunar month of Muharram represent the most prominent aspects of the spiritual bonds between the two communities.

It is to be noted, however, that although Iran recognizes the rightful demands of the Muslim republics in the Soviet Union, which have been ignored during the 70-year rule of the communists, the Islamic Republic has also very good relations with the central Soviet Government, and does not desire to witness any weakening in President Gorbachev's government.

From a general geopolitical point of view, Iran believes that the disintegration of the Soviet Union will result in an undesirable wave of instability in the region, and for that reason Iran is against some of the extremist nationalistic movements in some of the republics of the Soviet Union.

Such nationalistic tendencies are instigated by prospects which are in reality only mirages, and will benefit none of the republics.

It is on the basis of such an understanding that Iran believes conflicts and encounters between the republics of Azerbaijan and Armenia will have no result other than destruction of property and senseless bloodshed for the two republics, and Iran is even prepared to act as an intermediary in this connection between the two nations.

Azeri and Armenian peoples have been living side by side in peace and friendship in Iran for many decades in spite of their religious and ethnic differences and the

pattern of that peaceful co-existence cold serve as a model for the two communities in Azerbaijan and the Armenian republics.

* Trade with South Korea to Exceed $2 Billion

91AS1344c London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] By expanding its commercial relations with South Korea and turning over the implementation of various industrial and development projects to Korean contractors, the Islamic Republic intents to increase the volume of its trade with that country to $2 billion per year. After Japan, South Korea is now the Islamic Republic's largest trading partner in the Far East, and contracting companies from that country are carrying out numerous industrial development projects in various parts of Iran. Based on statistics published by various international energy sources, last year the Islamic Republic was South Korea's largest crude oil supplier. In that year, the two countries exchanged more than $1.2 billion in commercial transactions. The importance of expanding the Islamic Republic's commercial relations with South Korea was emphasized by the sending of Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, the regime's minister of petroleum, to Seoul to take part in the fourth Iran-Korea Economic Conference. During this conference, which took place in the capital of South Korea during the last week of July, the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum and members of a delegation sent from Tehran discussed various aspects of economic cooperation and commercial transactions with Korean economic officials. After returning from South Korea, Minister of Petroleum Gholam Reza Aqazadeh said during a radio and televison press conference: The fourth Iran-South Korea Economic Conference, held in Seoul from 4-6 Mordad [26-28 July] this year, was especially important because it dealt with important economic and commercial matters. He added: The delegation that accompanied me on this trip consisted of representatives of the nation's various economic sectors, including heavy industry, mines and metals, communications, defense, subways, the Municipality of Tehran, the petrochemical industry and commerce.

South Korea's Participation in Procuring Tehran's Metro Equipment

During his press conference, the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum said it is predicted that in the current year the value of the commercial exchanges between the two nations will reach about $2 billion. He added: The most important issues raised at the conference included the study of the procurement of equipment for the Tehran subway system such as rails, cars and locomotives.

In this regard the chief of the Tehran metro visited subway equipment plants in Seoul, and arrangements were made for a South Korean delegation to be sent soon to Tehran to discuss the transfer of technology and the manufacture of some subway equipment.

Continuing his press conference, Aqazadeh said: Another area in which the South Koreans are reputable is building construction, and in this regard the Municipality of Tehran talked with construction companies and a letter of mutual understanding was signed. Based on this letter of mutual understanding, it is expected that with the participation of the Municipality of Tehran it will be possible to build one million square meters of buildings in Tehran.

Continuing his press conference, the minister of petroleum announced that a $100 million contract will be signed between the petrochemical companies and the Daylam company of Korea, on the basis of which some of the Tabriz petrochemical projects will be built by this company. He discussed the talks held on the possible participation by the Koreans in carrying out Qeshm Island development projects. He said that a representative of the Qeshm Development Organization talked with South Korean industrialists during his stay in Seoul and asked them to encourage Korean companies to invest in Qeshm Island. Although Aqazadeh said nothing during his press conference about the reason a representative of the Ministry of Defense was a part of the delegation to South Korea, analysts of the Islamic Republic's political affairs believe that insiders in the regime's defense affairs are trying hard to obtain weapons and war materiel from South Korea. These experts say that the Islamic Republic will give South Korea oil in exchange for weapons. In the last six months, both openly and secretly, the Islamic Republic has sought, by sending officials of various ministries, middlemen and buyers, to purchase weapons, war materiels, implements and spare parts from various nations of the world, including North Korea, China, the Federal Republic of Germany, Austria, Brazil, France, the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Poland and several other countries. An expert on defense affairs told KEYHAN's correspondent that Minister of Petroleum Aqazadeh's main mission in South Korea was apparently to encourage that nation to transfer weapons to the Islamic Republic and to accept oil in exchange for them. The expert added: Korean engineers and experts are now carrying out many of Iran's development projects and it is expected that with the expansion of trade relations with this nation, Korean contracting companies will expand their operations more than ever in Iran.

As the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum was about to return from South Korea, the newspaper KEYHAN of Tehran, quoting the KOREAN NEWS AGENCY, announced that that nation won the bidding to build a railroad in Iran. The newspaper wrote: The Korean Da'evou company won Iran's $151-million order to build the 16-kilometer Bandar 'Abbas-Bafq railway.

KEYHAN of Tehran added: Operations to build this railway will begin early this August, and the line will be built by the commercial and construction unit of the Korean company Da'evou. Quoting a spokesman for the Korean Da'evou company, the newspaper wrote: The

project to build the 16-kilometer Bandar 'Abbas-Bafq railway will be completed by February 1994.

* 400 Kuwaiti Oil Wells Brought Under Control

91AS1344d London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Aug 91 p 4

[Text] Iranian experts and engineers have assumed the task of plugging a number of burning oil wells in Kuwait. According to the Islamic Republic's minister of petroleum, the final contract for the participation of Iranian experts in putting out oil well fires in Kuwait has recently been signed, and in the middle of last week the first ship carrying fire-fighting equipment left Iranian waters for Kuwait. On the basis of the contract mentioned, Iranian experts will independently plug about 400 burning oil wells in the Borqan oil field. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh told reporters at a press conference: At the last OPEC meeting I suggested to Kuwait's minister of petrpleum that we are prepared to rebuild Kuwait's Port Ahmadi in five months. He added: I even announced to the minister of petroleum that we are even willing to accept oil contracts from that country in exchange for repairing Port Ahmadi.

Following the report that about two-thirds of Kuwait's oil wells are back in operation, this nation's minister of petroleum announced that during the current month of August Kuwait will send about 4.5 million barrels of crude oil to the markets of the world.

In the middle of last week RADIO RIADH, quoting Kuwaiti oil officials, denied that there was a delay in putting out the oil well fires. It emphasized that about two-thirds of the fires have been put out, and that during the month of August the fires at the al-Sumu' and al-Ahmadi wells will also be put out.

* University Students Protest Tuition Hike

91AS1285B London KEYHAN in Persian
18 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] The students of the Open Islamic University of the city of Karaj took part in demonstrations on 11 Tir (3 July) in Tehran to protest the unreasonable tuition hike and shouted slogans against the officials of the university and the regime in front of the central office of that university. These demonstrators, numbering more than 600, protested the sudden tuition hike of more than 50 percent in various fields as well as the collection of a variety of other fees by the management of the Open University. They also accused the officials of the university of being profiteers in putting 120 students in one classroom.

These students then marched towards the office of the president of the Islamic Republic and shouted slogans in front of Rafsanjani's office. Rafsanjani is the major shareholder of the Open University.

The guards stationed around the presidential office and members of Rafsanjani's body guards clashed with the demonstrating students, and after shots were fired into the air and the marchers were attacked, several of them were arrested.

According to the Tehran press, one protesting student called the operators of the Open Islamic University "unfair capitalists" and said: "The Open University first traps the student with a reasonable tuition and a little later makes the student dependent on it and subjugates him."

A female student also told the reporters: "I have completed forty credits, and with the tuition hike, my family is unable to pay the difference in tuition. That means I will have to either drop out of school or prevent the officials of the Open University in Karaj from achieving their objective."

Interestingly, "Naderi," the Islamic revolution prosecutor of Karaj, who is an opponent of the Open University officials in that city, supported the demonstrations of the protesting students and said in an interview: "The recent protest of the students to the tuition increase is just." On the other hand, the public relations office of the University announced on 3 July: Elements outside the university, some of whom have been identified, have provoked the students with the excuse of tuition hikes, and the matter is under investigation.

* Prosecutor Forbids Pasdaran To Break Into Homes

91AS1344e London KEYHAN in Persian
8 Aug 91 p 2

[Text] Last week Hojjat ol-Eslam Yunisi, the Tehran public prosecutor, warned new publications not to make problems for themselves by printing controversial and false material. Yunisi said: We have attributed the large, loud and untrue headlines in new newspapers just getting started to their professional inexperience, but I advise them henceforth not to do anything to create problems for themselves and the courts. He emphasized:

The newspapers must take into consideration public discretion and the interests of the nation, the revolution and the country. The Tehran public prosecutor noted: The case is being investigated about one new newspaper which has written incorrect things about the arrival of pilgrims.

The Tehran public prosecutor mentioned incidents that took place because of the unauthorized entry into the homes of the people by persons posing as revolution guard officers. He gave the good news that these incidents have decreased since the security forces were consolidated, and will not occur any more. He said: "In recent months people presenting themselves as revolution guard generals went to the homes of citizens and created problems. Henceforth, however, the people should not permit anyone into their homes without a valid order from the public prosecutor. Moreover, even if officials go into homes with written authorization, they do not have the right to handle family albums or household implements and furniture."

Yunisi discussed the limited partnership companies. He said: All of these organizations have been dismantled, and we are only looking for the officials of one of them, but the Turkish police and the international police are not cooperating with us to arrest them. The Tehran public prosecutor said: "Sometimes we are criticized for bringing some official or Majles deputy to court. Our answer is that we are not influenced by the positions of individuals, and having judicial or political immunity is no reason not to prosecute individuals, because they can be prosecuted when they are dismissed from their jobs."

He then defended Rafsanjani's proposal made several months ago on the issue of temporary wives. He said: The temporary wife is a progressive phenomenon in Shi'ia jurisprudence, and in my view it is the only real solution in the fight against social corruption.

* Fighting Between Pasdaran, Antiregime Forces

91AS1285D London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jul 91 p 2

[Text] In the severe clashes that occurred in the Province of Sistan and Baluchestan between the guards corps forces and the rebellious Baluchis, who oppose the regime of the Islamic Republic, 200 guards of the Islamic Republic were killed or wounded and a large number taken prisoner by the Baluchis. The recent clashes which have continued in the past weeks and have not yet ended were more severe in the vicinity of the city of Zahedan. INDEPENDENT, published in London, wrote of these clashes that at least two Guards Corps helicopters were shot down by the Baluchi fighters, and a large amount of light and heavy weapons fell into the hands of the Baluchis. "Amanollah Baluch" asked international agencies to prevent the massacre of the Baluchis by the Islamic Republic and Pakistan forces.

Mohsen Reza'i, following a noisy trip which was widely publicized by the regime, arrived in Tehran last Tuesday and termed his trip a success. IRNA reported that on this trip he held discussions with the military officials of Pakistan about military and arms cooperation and visited the weapons manufacturing factories of that country that produce weapons with the help of "some foreign countries such as China." On this trip, Reza'i also met with the president, prime minister and other high-ranking officials of Pakistan. The commander of the Guards Corps, on his return to Tehran, said that in his meetings he discussed the security of the eastern borders of Iran, fighting outlaws and smugglers and also the issue of the extradition of the Iranian fugitives to Baluchestan.

In recent weeks, numerous reports have been published about cooperation between Islamabad and Tehran to mass produce highly destructive weapons, including medium and long-range missiles. Also, several informed military and intelligence sources have warned against the cooperation of the Islamic Republic and Pakistan in the area of military use of atomic energy.

Nepal & Bhutan

House Members Welcome Reinstatement of Gorbachev

BK2208151291 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] During the zero hour in the House of Representatives today, the members from both the ruling and opposition parties expressed their happiness over the reinstatement of President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev after the abortive counterrevolution carried out by the Soviet communist hardliners. Congratulating the people of the Soviet Union for their courage and dedication to democracy, the members also congratulated Mr. Gorbachev and the president of the Russian republic, Boris Yeltsin, for the great courage and willpower they demonstrated for the cause of democracy.

Leader of the parliamentary opposition Manmohan Adhikari [words indistinct] the lack of confidence in the left has been expressed in view of the [word indistinct] the Soviet Union quite forgetting the role played by them for the sake of democracy. He said this after being allotted special time by the speaker of the house.

Pakistan

President, Prime Minister Greet Gorbachev

BK2208114291 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif have greeted President Gorbachev over the collapse of coup and restoration of constitutional authority in the Soviet Union. In his message sent to President Gorbachev today, the Pakistani president extended felicitations to the government and the people of the USSR and said it is an event of historic importance which will inspire and encourage democratic and freedom-loving people all over the world. He expressed the hope that Pakistan and the Soviet Union will continue to maintain and further promote close friendly ties and work together for peace, stability, and progress of the region.

The prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, in his message to Mr. Gorbachev expressed profound happiness over the victory of constitutional authority and resumption of his responsibilities as the president. He said we are confident that under your continued leadership the process of reforming and democratization will further strengthen in accordance with the wishes of the Soviet people.

Mr. Nawaz Sharif has also greeted the president of the Russian republic, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, on the success of peaceful resistance to illegal attempts to impose unconstitutional order in USSR.

Commentary Hails Gorbachev's Reinstatement

BK2308110391 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Aug 91

[A.B.S. Jafri commentary]

[Text] The people of Pakistan, like people almost everywhere, have heaved a sigh of general relief to learn that after a traumatic upheaval, the Soviet Union is slowly returning to normal. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been restored to his rightful position from which he had been unconstitutionally ousted while on a holiday in the south of the country. The ring leaders of the coup, who stunned the world, are reportedly being rounded up. One of them is rather (?surely) reported to have committed suicide. That an event of the magnitude of an overthrow of the government established by law and the crushing defeat inflicted by an outraged people is going to cast its shadows, long and dark, for quite some time to come. But what is more reassuring is that the constitutionally established government and its heads have been saved and their return to their high position has been brought about [words indistinct] such events going to cause. This is without doubt a tribute to the maturity of the people and leadership of the Soviet Union.

The president and prime minister of Pakistan have lost no time in sending out messages of greetings and good wishes to President Gorbachev on his restoration to his high office. Both have expressed great relief to note that Mr. Gorbachev has emerged from the brief, but serious crisis in good health and unscathed. The president of Pakistan, Mr. Ghulam Ishaq Khan, and Premier Mr. Nawaz Sharif have also taken the opportunity to assure Mr. Gorbachev of the sincere desire of the people and government of this country to see relations between Pakistan and the Soviet Union grow from [words indistinct] as relations between two close relations always ought to.

The Soviet Union has passed the worst that the nightmarish experience could have caused to the country's integrity and the people and well-being of the Soviet state. And the people are now beyond much doubt that there is no getting away from the hard facts that the coup was by no means the best of things to happen to any country, particularly to the Soviet people, at present in the process of full-thrusting transition from an old and established social order and system of government to an entirely new and still untried polity. The tremors and ripples of the unsettling event will be felt for some time to come. But there is much reassurance to be drawn, that is, now an [words indistinct] situation without any significant destruction in the passing interregnum. What has happily happened is that President Gorbachev's epoch-making efforts and his measured movement toward a remodelled Soviet state have been given a telling endorsement and vindication. He has returned to his office on the shoulders of a cheering and grateful people. As a matter of principle, the conduct of the plotters calls for unambiguous denunciation from every civilized point of view. All contravention of law is condemnable. But, playing ducks and drakes with the fundamental law, that is, the law which provides sanction and sanctity to all laws, is a crime against the state. It is for the Soviet court to decide this matter, and they surely will, to the bidding of their law.

For Pakistan, developments in the Soviet Union have a very special meaning for a number of reasons. First, the two of us are next-door neighbors. The Soviet Union is a superpower and a permanent member of the Security Council. This country has always striven to work for the best possible equation with the Soviet Union. At this particular moment, the Soviet Union exercises an extra special significance because negotiations toward a peaceful solution of the 12-year-old Afghan question have entered what could well be a decisive stage toward a final and durable settlement. All in all, the restoration of the constitutional order and the return of President Gorbachev at the helm is the best thing that could have happened for the people of the Soviet Union, for the peace of the world, and for relations between Islamabad and Moscow. All is well that ends well.

One Killed, 3 Injured in Mardan Bomb Blast

BK2208114491 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] In Mardan, there was a bomb blast in a shop this morning, killing one person and injuring eight. Three injured persons were admitted to the hospital, while the rest were discharged after administering first aid.

Sri Lanka

Maldivian President Arrives for 2-Day Visit

BK2208163691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1232 GMT 22 Aug 91

[Text] Colombo, August 22 (AFP)—Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom arrived here Thursday on a two-day visit for talks on regional cooperation with Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa, officials here said.

Gayoom is visiting Colombo as the chairman of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Coorporation (SAARC), which groups the Maldives, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal and Pakistan.

The sixth SAARC nations' leaders' summit is scheduled here for November 7, when Premadasa takes over the chairmanship from Gayoom.